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ESTERN AUSTRALIA

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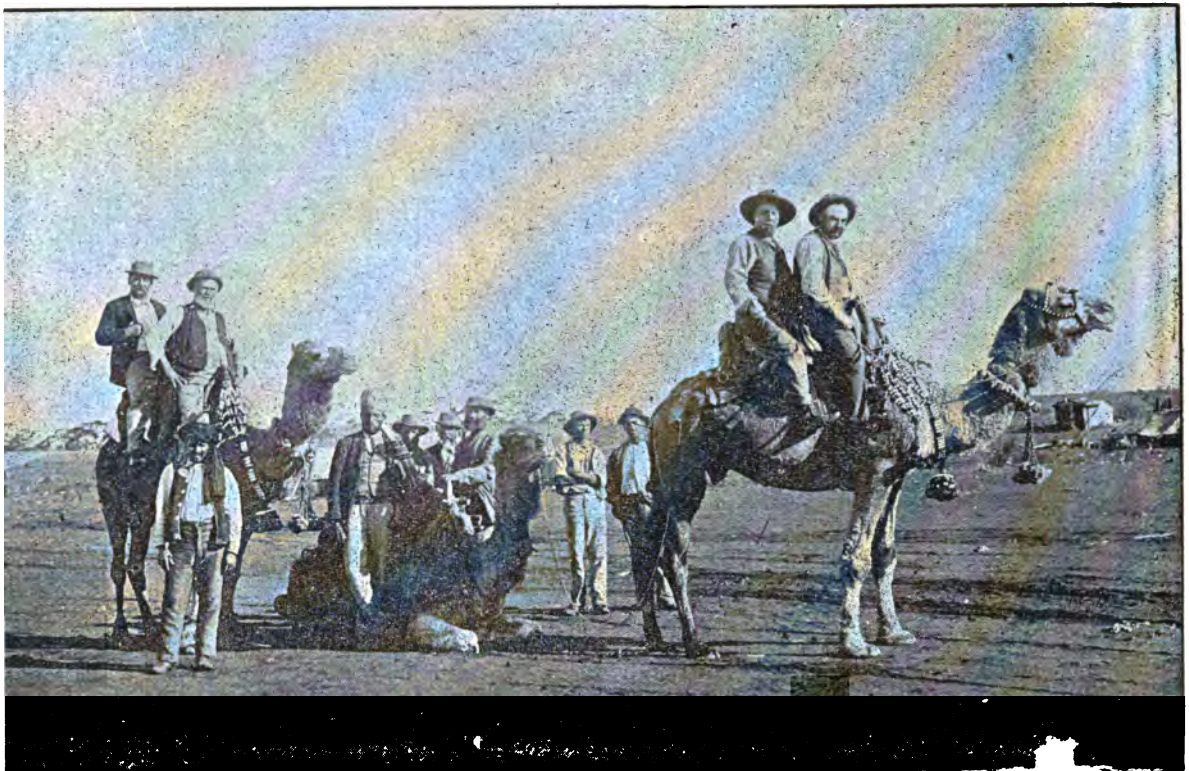
TRAVELLING ON CAMELS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

ITS HISTORY AND PROGRESS, THE NATIVE BLACKS, TOWNS, COUNTRY DISTRICTS, AND THE GOLDFIELDS.

[WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.]

BY

JONATHAN CEREDIG DAVIES.

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His Excellency the Honourable

SIR ARTHUR LAWLEY, K.C.M.G.,

Governor of the State of Western Australia

and its Dependencies,

To Whom this Book is Respectfully Dedicated

by Kind Permission.

LADY LAWLEY.

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Undoubtedly the great drawback of Western Australia, if not of Australia in general, is the total absence of a great mountain system in the interior to give rise to large rivers.

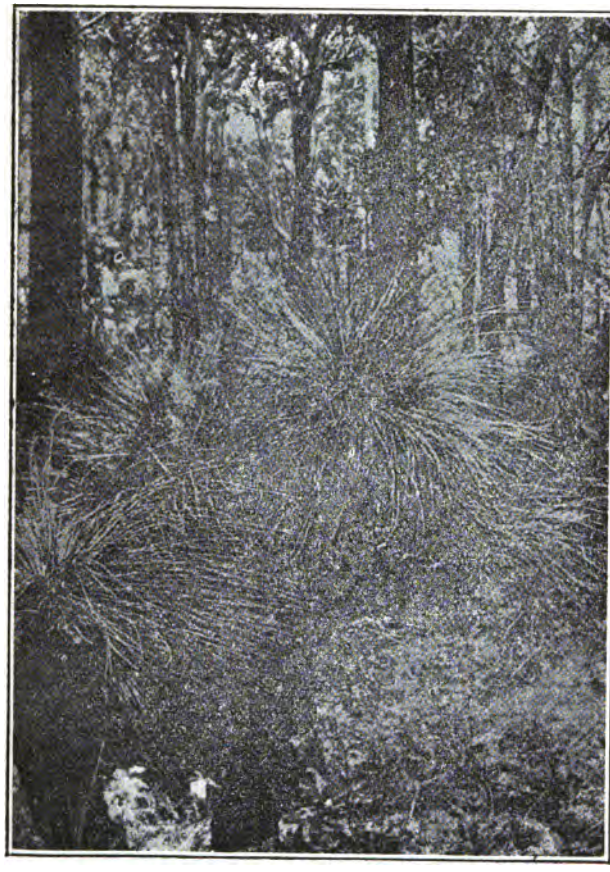
The interior is, according to accounts of explorers, a vast tableland about 1,500 feet above the sea level, though not without its dunes and depressions at intervals. Some of these depressions are sometimes incorrectly called "lakes," but in reality they are only salt clay marshes, perfectly dry except after heavy rains, which do not occur very often, as the rainfall in the interior is very small.

This dry tract of country runs right through a large portion of Western Australia, from Eucla on the south-east seaboard through the interior of the country, about 1,100 miles or more in a north-westernly direction to the north-west Cape. This immense belt of dry tableland has often been regarded as a vast howling desert from one end to the other, but this in many respects is rather misleading, as some tracts of it contains excellent soil and covered with grass, but the drawback is the want of sufficient rain. But it must be remembered that the whole of Western Australia is not a dry region. In the south-western portion of the State, which is about twice as large as England, rain is abundant and regular. At Cape Leeuin, for instance, the very south-west point of the country. the annual amount of rainfall is not far short of 40 inches, but from this point, however, it gradually decreases both northward and eastward.

In the country around Perth, the capital city, which is situated about 180 miles north from Cape Leeuin, the rainfall is about 31 or 32 inches, but from Perth to the east it decreases gradually into the interior, and in the far inland tableland it cannot be more than 7 or 8 inches as far as it has been ascertained.

The whole of the south-west part of the Colony is very heavily covered with trees, except here and there where patches have been cleared ; but in the north and east the timber gives place to bush and shrubby trees.

The forest region covers an area of about 30,000



A BUSH SCENE.

square miles, and the matured timber growing on it has been estimated by an expert at the value of above 120 million sterling. These big trees for the most part belong to the Eucaluptus tribe. The tree which is most abundant is the jarrah, which covers an immense tract of land.

The jarrah, I believe, grows only in Western Australia, but it is exported at present to all parts of the world, for it is well-known for its durability, and so well adapted for bridges, harbour works, railway sleepers, telegraph poles, paving, etc.

Jarrah boards look rather rough unless planed, but with little labour the carpenter is able to make it look as beautiful as mahogany. Indeed, jarrah is called by some West Australian mahogany.

One characteristic of the jarrah is that it grows on soil of inferior quality. In my many wanderings through the forests, I noticed it was often the case that the larger the trees, the poorer the soil.

It seems as if these trees take away the substance of the soil, or poison it. It must be admitted, however, that after cutting them down, or even "ringbarking," the land improves gradually till at length green grass springs up where hardly anything would grow previously.

Another excellent tree, which is much imported from the country, is the karri, which is perhaps of equal value to the jarrah, but more confined to one particular district. Some of the karri trees are of extraordinary height, about 300 to 400 feet high, and over 30 feet in circumference, and of all the West Australian trees this is undoubtedly the most graceful in its proportions.

Besides the jarrah and karri West Australia has several species of gum trees, such as the Red gum, White gum and York gum; and as the presence of large jarrah trees is often a sign of inferior soil, so does the presence of gum trees, especially the York and Salmon gum, indicate good soil.

Perhaps the most remarkable tree, or rather bush shrub, is the grass tree or "black boy," so named from its appearance at a distance. The "black boy," which is impossible to describe to those who have never seen it,

has a black stem around which the leaves are formed in a circle. Fresh circles of decayed leaves are added annually and pressed down by the new leaves which are putting forth. As the tree does not seem to grow during a year more than the thickness of the circle of leaves which is added to the plant, it must have taken hundreds of years to grow a few feet. It exudes a dark resinous substance in great quantities. This shrub makes excellent fuel, especially for lighting the fire. It is widely dispersed over the country, and supposed to connect the vegetation of the present with that of the carboniferous period.

Timber is undoubtedly a source of wealth to Western Australia. Timber mills are numerous in different parts of the south-west, employing hundreds of men, and the latest statistics show that a million and a half acres of land are held under timber leases at present. It must be admitted, however, that owing to keen competition and other reasons, many of these mills are not in such a flourishing condition as one might have expected, and some of these Companies are, to a certain extent, disappointed; but there is no doubt as to the ultimate success of the timber industry, and it will take generations to cut down all the trees. It is not timber, but gold, that has attracted so many to Western Australia during the last ten years.

DISCOVERY OF THE COUNTRY.

The discovery of America by Columbus in 1492 led some to entertain the probability of the existence of a continent in the far unknown South, and after Vasco de Gama discovered the Cape of Good Hope, thereby finding a passage to the Indian Seas, several of the maritime nations of Europe determined to send out expeditions to explore the south seas. Although it cannot be ascertained who was the first discoverer of Australia, everybody agrees that the west was the first part sighted by Europeans, and that it was known for many years before the eastern coasts of the great island-continent.

The Portuguese, French, Spaniards and Dutch claim the honour of having been the first discoverers, but evidence is stronger in favour of the Portuguese than the others.

It is evident that a Portuguese navigator, named Menezes, in exploring the Indian Seas, discovered Western Australia in 1527, "and the memory of this discovery is perpetuated in the name given to the group of rocky islets on the west coast, still known as Abrolhos, a term applied by the early voyagers of that nation to dangerous outlying islets, indicating the necessity of keeping a good look out." Abrolhos is a contraction of the Portuguese *abri vossos olhos*—"keep your eyes open."

It is evident from the accounts of Marco Polo, a celebrated traveller who visited China as early as 1270, that Australia must have been known to the Chinese, and perhaps to the Malays, hundreds of years before the enterprising spirit of Europe awoke from the long sleep of the middle ages.

It also seems probable from early writings that the existence of a "Great South Land" was known to the Greeks and Romans of old over 2,000 years ago, but it is evident that Europe of the middle ages had no idea of the existence of this land, till it was discovered by the Portuguese in the 16th century, and even then it was only known—and that very dimly—to the Portuguese and Spaniards.

It was, however, reserved to the Dutch in the following century to give to civilized Europe the first reliable account of Western Australia, which they named New Holland. During that century (17th) the visits of Dutch navigators were frequent, and they named several places on the coast.

As early as 1616 Dirk Hartock discovered and entered Shark's Bay, and gave his name to an island which still bears his name to the present day.

In the year 1629 the thrilling tragedy of the Batavia took place, when Commodore Pelsart with his crew and passengers, after a long and tempestuous voyage, were shipwrecked on the dangerous Abrolhos islets, about 35

miles from the mainland.

The wreck of the Batavia, and what followed, is more full of tragedy, daring and romance than perhaps anything one may read concerning the early explorers of Australia. The castaways, numbering a good many men, some women and children, who lived for four months in West Australian land, may in some sense be regarded as the first white settlers, or at any rate residents of the great island-continent of Australia. Fresh water could not be found, and Commodore Pelsart sailed away in a small boat to the Dutch East Indies to obtain help for the unfortunate people which he had to leave behind. At first he sailed along the coast of Western Australia in a northernly direction, landing here and there in search of water, and on one or two occasions a few natives were seen, who were black and naked, but the country appeared so barren that neither trees nor grass could be seen, but was covered with high ant hills built of earth. After running along the coast for some distance, the wind compelled him to put into the open sea and try to continue his voyage to Java as soon as possible. At last he arrived at Batavia, after sailing about 1,600 miles in a small boat.

When he returned from Batavia he found that a daring mutiny, followed by a most horrible massacre, had taken place among the shipwrecked men during his absence. The perpetrators of these atrocities were a band of ruffians, led by one Cornelis, who had decided to put to death in cold blood all the loyal castaways, that he might set himself up as a pirate. The Commodore punished the guilty by hanging them.

On account of the primitive and imperfect marine science of those days, it seems that shipwrecks were not uncommon on the West Australian coast in the seventeenth century, for in 1655 another Dutch vessel named "De Vergulde Draeck," was wrecked and 118 lives lost.

In 1688 William Dampier, an Englishman, during a buccaneering cruise landed on the north coast of Western Australia, and Dampier's Land and Dampier's

Archipelago perpetuates his name to the present day.

He was perhaps a more keen observer than most of those early voyagers who had preceded him in Australian exploration, and was the first Englishman that ever set his foot in the country.

Dampier was born in Somerset in 1652, and after his parents were dead went to sea when almost a boy. He did not seem to be fond of a sailor's life at first, but his love of adventure and of discovery soon led him to take seafaring voyages to all parts, and in the West Indies, having joined a party of buccaneers, roamed round the world, during which wanderings he visited Western Australia in the buccaneer ship "Cygnet."

He gives a rather gloomy account of the country, which he represents as a barren, dry and unpromising region, nor does he seem to be struck with the beauty of the natives of this strange land he had come upon, whom he describes as "the miserablest people in the world, . . . and setting aside their human shape, they differ but little from brutes. They are tall, straight-bodied and thin, with small long limbs. They have great heads, round foreheads, and great brows. Their eyelids are always half closed, to keep the flies out of their eyes, they being so troublesome here that no fanning will keep them from coming to one's face, and without the assistance of both hands to keep them off, they will creep into one's nostrils, and mouth too, if the lips are not shut very close. So that from their infancy, being thus annoyed with these insects, they do never open their eyes as other people, and therefore they cannot see far unless they hold up their heads, as if they were looking at somewhat over them. They have great bottle noses, pretty full lips, and wide mouths. The two foreteeth of their upper jaw are wanting in all of them, men and women, old and young; whether they draw them out I know not. Neither have they any beards. They are long visaged and of a very unpleasing aspect, having no one graceful feature in their faces. Their hair is black, short, and curled like that of the negroes, and not long and lank like the common Indians. The colour of their skins, both of their faces

and the rest of their bodies, is coal-black, like that of the Negroes of Guinea."

In about ten or eleven years after this Dampier undertook another voyage to Western Australia, when he entered and named Shark's Bay, not as a buccaneer now, but a proud commander of a King's ship named the "Roebuck."

He had published some books a year or two previously, giving an account of his adventures, which brought him into notice at high quarters. It does not seem, however, that anything important resulted from his two voyages to Western Australia, as his description of the country was very unfavourable.

It is worthy of notice that in the interval between Dampier's two voyages, a Dutch navigator named De Fleming, in 1696, discovered and named Rottnest Island and the Swan River. Rottnest he so named on account of the burrows of rats (wallabies) on it, and the River Swan he named Black Swan River on account of the black swans which he found on it. He traced the river some miles up the country, and probably set his foot on the spot where Perth, the capital city of Western Australia, is at present situated, but soon departed with poor impressions of *Terra Australis.*

After the end of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the following, the Dutch did not seem to continue their visits to the country, probably a region which appeared in the opinion of so many of their explorers to have been so inhospitable, and so far from being an El Dorado, did not engage their attention any longer. Little did they dream of the golden treasure that lay hid in the heart of this forsaken land. Some, indeed, maintain that the Dntch did discover gold, but this tradition is rather doubtful, for had they really discovered the precious metal, how can it be accounted for their abandoning the country, after a century of exploration?

It is also said by some that the Englishman Dampier, whose visits we have just noticed, discovered gold in 1688, but this is equally doubtful, for had such been the case there is reason to believe that Australia at the

present day would have a large population of 15,000,000 or 20,000,000, with a power equally famous in the Southern Seas as the United States is in North America. It seems very strange indeed that no decisive attempts were made by any European power to colonise the Great South Land for over 250 years after its discovery.

The French navigator, Captain De St. Alouarn, explored some of the West Australian coast about the year 1772, and during the next 50 years several expeditions were sent to the country, and it is evident that they examined a great deal of the coast from the fact that French names are numerous, and retained till the present day, and are well known to West Australians.

It has been said by some that France had the intention of settling Western Australia in those days, but as to this there is no certainty.

But to come to British exploration. Vancouver surveyed the southern coast and entered King George's Sound in 1791, and named it in honour of George III.

But the man who deserves our notice in a special manner undoubtedly is Admiral King, R.N., who was on the coast of Western Australia for some years. This celebrated hydrographer was born in 1793, and entered the navy in 1807, and after the lapse of some years he was appointed to conduct a surveying expedition, and in 1818–1822 surveyed the coast of Western Australia from King George's Sound to the northern limits of the country, a distance of over 2,000 miles, also continuing further east. A few years after this he was sent on an expedition to survey the coast of Patagonia, which he did with diligence. He published from time to time several interesting books, the results of surveys and explorations on the coasts of Western Australia and Patagonia, and finally settled in Sydney, N.S.W., where he was for many years Manager of the Australian Agricultural Society, and a Member of the Legislative Council.

Captain Cook, of course, was the greatest explorer of Australia, but as he had no connection with the West of the continent, it would be out of place to follow his discoveries in this book.

SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

Western Australia, though discovered and explored long before the other parts of the continent were known, was not settled until the year 1829, when Captain (afterwards Sir James) Stirling founded the Swan River Settlement, afterwards the Colony, now the State of Western Australia, of which he had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor under Sir R. Darling, Governor of New South Wales, who it seems was under the impression that France intended to occupy and settle the country, and he had despatched Major Lockyer with a party of troops to take possession of the country around King George's Sound, where the town of Albany is at present situated. This detachment of soldiers, who landed about 1825, are not regarded as the first settlers, for they were only stationed there temporarily.

About this time Captain Stirling explored the country in the neighbourhood of the Swan River, with a view to settlement should the country prove suitable.

This eminent man, who was destined to be the pioneer and first ruler of Western Australia, was born in Scotland in 1791, and entered the navy in 1807, and was in active service in the unfortunate attack upon Buenos Ayres. He was promoted a Lieutenant in 1809, and in 1812 a commander of the "Brazen Sloop," and with great success cruised at the mouth of the Mississippi River during the second war between England and the United States.

In 1826 he was appointed to the command of the "Success," and sent to found a settlement in Terres Straits, and gave great satisfaction to the Governor of New South Wales and others.

After this he explored the Swan River district, and was sent to England by Sir R. Darling to urge the Government at home to take steps without delay to form a settlement in Western Australia, and recommended the country around the Swan River as a suitable spot for that purpose. Captain Stirling, who was very enthusiastic about settling Western Australia with British, gave a rather glowing report of the country.

His explorations in the vicinity of the Swan River seem to have given him quite a different impression of the district to that of its discoverer, De Fleming, who 130 years previously had said that he had seen "neither good country, nor anything worthy of note." Reports were now spread everywhere about Western Australia, dwelling on the capabilities and advantages of the country, such as the richness of its soil, healthiness of its climate, and its nearness to the Indies, South Africa, and other parts of the world, so as to offer magnificent opportunities to serve these neighbouring countries with produce and live stock. These rumours of such bright prospects were the means of drawing the attention of the wealthy and men of high standing, and many people of all classes thought seriously of investing their money on this new land of promise. An association was formed, and the Government, which had been petitioned on the subject, at length, after much discussion in Parliament, agreed to grant large tracts of land to speculators on extravagantly liberal terms, in order to anticipate France in founding a settlement in Western Australia, or New Holland as the country was known in those days.

The Land Regulations, issued from the Colonial Office, and dated January 13th, 1829, are as follows:—

1.—His Majesty's Government do not intend to incur any expense in conveying settlers to the new Colony on the Swan River; and will not feel bound to defray the expense of supplying them with provisions or other necessaries after their arrival there, nor to assist their removal to England or elsewhere, should they be desirous of quitting the Colony.

2.—Such persons who may arrive in that Settlement before the end of the year 1830, will receive in order of their arrival, grants of land free of quit rent, proportioned to the capital which they may be prepared to invest in the improvement of the land, and of which capital they may be able to produce satisfactory proofs to the Lieutenant-Governor (or the officer administering the Colonial Government), or to any two officers of the

local Government appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, at the rate of 40 acres for every sum of £3 which they may be prepared to invest.

3.—Under the head of "Investment of Capital" will be considered stock of every description, all implements of husbandry, and other articles which may be applicable to the purposes of productive industry, or which may be necessary for the establishment of the settler on the land where he is to be located. The amount of any half-pay or pension which the applicant may receive from the Government will also be considered as so much capital.

4.—Those who may incur the expense of taking out labouring persons will be entitled to an allowance of land at the rate of £15; that is, of 200 acres of land for the passage of every such labouring person, over and above any other investment of capital. In the class of "labouring classes" are included women and children above ten years old. Provision will be made by law at the earliest opportunity for rendering those capitalists who may be engaged in taking out labouring persons to this Settlement liable for the future maintenance of those persons, should they from infirmity or any other cause become unable to maintain themselves there.

5.—The license of occupation of land will be granted to the settler on satisfactory proof being exhibited to the Lieutenant-Governor (or other officer administering the local Government), of the amount of property brought into the Colony. The proofs required of such property will be such satisfactory vouchers of expenses as would be received in auditing public accounts. But the full title to the land will not be granted in fee simple until the settler has proved to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor (or other officer administering local Government), that the sum required by Article 2 of these regulations (viz., 1/6 per acre), has been expended in the cultivation of the land, or in solid improvements, such as buildings, roads, or other works of the kind.

6.—Any grant of land thus allotted, of which a fair proportion of at least one-fourth shall not have been

brought into cultivation, otherwise improved, or reclaimed from its wild state, to the extent of 1/6 per acre, to the satisfaction of the local Government within three years from the date of the license of occupation, shall, at the end of the three years, be liable to a payment of 6d. an acre into the public chest of the Settlement, and at the expiration of seven years more, should the land still remain in an uncultivated state, it will revert absolutely to the Crown.

7.—After the year 1830, land will be disposed of to those settlers who may resort to the Colony, on such conditions as His Majesty's Government shall see occasion to adopt.

8.—It is not intended that any convicts or other description of prisoners be transported to this new Settlement.

9.—The Government will be administered by Captain Stirling, of the Royal Navy, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Settlement; and it is proposed that a Bill should be submitted to Parliament in the course of next session to make provision for the civil government of the new Settlement.

Downing Street, 13th January, 1829.

In the beginning of February, 1829, Captain Stirling, with the first settlers for Western Australia, sailed from England on board the "Parmelia." This "Mayflower" had about 69 passengers altogether, consisting of the Governor and his family, his staff of eight persons, and also a number of mechanics and artisans, with their wives, children and servants, and reached their destination after a voyage of four months; a long time, no doubt, for those who are troubled with sea-sickness, but upon the whole a speedy and successful voyage, considering the comparatively primitive state of navigation in those days compared with the present day.

The following is a list of the passengers:—Captain James Stirling, R.N., Lieutenant-Governor; Mrs. Ellen Stirling, Andrew Stirling, William Stirling, George Mangles, George Eliot, Thomas Blackey, Sarah Blakey, John Kelly, James Morgan, Mr. P. Brown (Colonial

Secretary), Mrs. Caroline Brown, MacBride Brown, Ann Brown, Richard Evans, Margaret MacLeod, Mary Ann Smith, James Morgan, Mrs. Rebecca Morgan, Rebecca Morgan, Patrick Murphy, Ann Shipsey, Jane Fruin, Commander M. J. Currie, R.N. (Harbour Master), Mrs. Jane Currie, Frederick Ludlow, Mildred Kitts Ludlow, Mr. J. S. Roe (Surveyor-General), Mrs. Roe, Chas. Wright, Mr. H. C. Sutherland (Assistant Surveyor), Mrs Ann Sutherland, Mr. W. Shilton (Clerk to Colonial Secretary), Mr. James Drummond (agriculturalist), Mrs. Sarah Drummond, Thomas Drummond, Jane Drummond, James Drummond, John Drummond, Johnson Drummond, Euphemia Drummond, Elizabeth Gamble, Mr. Chas. Simmons (surgeon), Mr. Tully Daly (assistant surgeon), Mrs. Daly, Jessie Jane Daly, Joseph Daly, Henry J. Daly, Edward N. Daly, Eliza Rose Daly, James Elliott, Alex. Fondam (cooper), Mary Fondam, William Hoking (artificer), Mary Hoking, John Hoking, William Hoking, Mary Hoking, Thomas Hoking, David Hoking, Charles Hoking, Thomas Davies, John Davies, Catherine Davies, John Davies, Charlotte Davies, John Davies, James C. Smith, Sarah Smith.

The Governor and all these, with the exception of two (Mr. T. Daly and his daughter, who were drowned during the voyage), landed in Western Australia on the 1st June, 1829. Previous to their arrival, Captain Freemantle (afterwards Sir Charles), who had been despatched from India with H.M.S. "Challenger," to the Swan River district, formally took possession of "all that part of New Holland which is not included within the territory of New South Wales," by hoisting the British flag on the spot where the seaport town of Freemantle was afterwards built and named in honour of Sir Charles. The officers of the "Challenger" were afterwards, for a short time, engaged in exploring some of the coast and surrounding country. The "Parmelia" had on board, besides the Governor and passengers, 33 horses, 51 heads of cattle, 200 sheep, and a supply of fruit trees, plants and seeds.

Early in the following month another vessel arrived with 100 immigrants, and from that time till about the

end of 1830 passengers continually landed, so that within less than 18 months after the first settlers arrived, the population of the colony numbered nearly 2,000, with a capital of £144,177.

We need not hesitate to say that the first settlers of Western Australia were a class of people far superior, both from a social and moral point of view, to those of the first settlers of any other Australian Colony, or perhaps of any other Colony in the world—gentlemen of culture and good position, nephews of noblemen, and sons of men of high social standing—a great contrast to the first settlers of New South Wales, who were convicts.

But many of them were totally unfit to bear the privations and hardships incident to life in founding a new settlement. Such were the conditions of life at the foundation of Western Australia, that it required a great deal of "roughing it," hard work and perseverance. Those unfortunate gentlemen had been led, or rather misled, by the glowing reports of Captain Stirling and others, and the generosity of the Government in offering them such large estates for settling a new Colony; but, unfortunately, when they opened their eyes upon this land of promise they soon found that it was far from flowing with milk and honey, and the castles which they had been building in the air during the voyage vanished, and troubles and disappointments were many. It was very discouraging, especially to those who had been brought up in ease and luxury in England, to land on an isolated distant shore in the depth of winter, without as much as a house, or even a hut, to shelter them from the cold and rain. Even ladies of aristocratic birth, and little children, had to put up with such a miserable state of things for some time, and the Colonial Office in London was to be blamed for it, by giving the Surveyor-General very unwise instructions to divide the country into counties, townships, &c., before surveying out lands for the immigrants to build on. This caused a great deal of difficulty, confusion and loss of time, and when at last they received the grants allotted to them, things did

not seem to prosper much. They did not at once understand the seasons, and their confidence was so small in the productiveness of the soil, owing to its sandy character, that they felt discouraged to cultivate it. Their money was going fast in maintaining themselves and families, and by degrees food became scarce through losses of stock from eating poisonous plants, and from running away into the bush.

Many of the immigrants became extremely disappointed, and returned to England or New South Wales in disgust, giving a very gloomy account of the Swan River Settlement wherever they went, which was the means of creating all over the world a strong prejudice against Western Australia as a field for settlers, the effect of which has not quite disappeared even at the present day. But everybody agrees that nothing contributed more to give the Colony an unfortunate start, and retard its progress, than the ease by which large areas of land were obtained by mere speculators. Indeed, when we look back on the history of Western Australia, especially in the early days, no one is inclined to admire the policy of Downing Street in those days.

We have already quoted the Land Regulations issued by the Colonial Office at home, before the first settlers left on their voyage, which provided that land should be granted in proportion to the capital introduced by each individual, at the rate of 1/6 per acre. Now, according to these regulations, a man landing in Western Australia within the first eighteen months of the foundation of the Colony, with only a property valued at £1000, was entitled to 15,000 acres of land practically for nothing. Within two or three years over 1,000,000 acres had been given away by the Government in this manner, of which one Mr. Peel received 250,000 acres, Colonel Latour 113,100, and Sir James Stirling 100,000. Sir James had agreed with the Government to take land in lieu of money as his stipend as Governor, but he obtained both land and money. The consequences of all this were that when industrious and persevering men—a class absolutely necessary for the development of

new communities—who came out afterwards, and found that the land in the best localities and within reach of the ports, had been taken up by speculators, they passed on to the other colonies; so that in effect the Land Laws and Regulations of the Colonial Office in their consequences proved fatal to the prosperity of the country for many years. Even those who obtained large areas of land did not benefit by it, as the progress of the Colony was so slow. Many of them became so disheartened and disgusted that they sold out their stock and went away, but retained their possession of the land, hoping it would become more valuable at some future time when the country would be more developed. But others were of a quite different stamp, and decided to remain in the Colony through thick and thin, and to do all in their power to make it a success, which proves that though a large number of the first settlers were not of the right sort to establish new communites, yet they were not all of this class, for there were many among them who were full of energy and and enterprise, men who had fully considered the difficulties and hardships of pioneering life, and prepared to encounter it; and we are told of their women—many of whom were well-born ladies—that they bore these privations with unmurmuring perseverance, and in a most praiseworthy manner "assumed their new duties without derogating from the habits and manners of their former life."

When we consider that so many had abandoned the Colony in such extreme disappointment, and others coming out from England passing on to the other Colonies, regarding it as a land of desolation, great honour is due to the memory of those few who still remained and persevered to lay the foundation of Western Australia under such uninviting conditions, and perhaps some day in the far future some virgil will be singing their praise. Most of their descendants are to-day in comfortable circumstances, reaping the fruits of their fathers' labours, and the Premier of the State, Mr. George Leake, is a grandson of a pioneer who landed in August, 1829.

The progress of the Colony was very small during the first ten years, and the small population very scattered,

owing to the country being regarded as more adapted for pastoral rather than agricultural pursuits.

There was a small community at Albany, another at Port Augusta, near Cape Leeuin, and one or two other small settlements further north, and York inland, but the majority lived in the vicinity of the Swan River, on the banks of which the town of Perth, the seat of Government, was situated, and at the mouth of the same river was the seaport town of Freemantle. The population, which in 1830 numbered 1,769, was estimated in 1834 at 1,800, an increase of only 31 souls during four years. The total value of lands, houses, cattle, horses and sheep in the same year was estimated at £219,739, not including Albany and Augusta. The number of cattle at that date was 540, horses 166, and sheep 4,145. The revenue in the same year (1834) amounted to £26,379, but out of this total amount £18,940 was contributed by the Home Government, so that the revenue actually obtained from the Colony itself was very small indeed, which shows the depressed state of things in those days. The expenditure was £25,413. A little wool was exported to England this year for the first time, and timber two years later.

Captain Stirling at first seems to have been only a Lieutenant-Governor in some sense under the Governor of New South Wales, but with almost unlimited power, and during his absence on leave in England he was knighted, and appointed by the Home Government to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief and Vice-Admiral. He had an Executive Council to assist him. He also appointed a Resident Magistrate at Albany, and at some of the other chief places, who had a great deal of influence and authority in their respective localities. At the close of the year 1838 Sir James resigned his Governorship of Western Australia, in order to return to actual service, and in 1840–1844 he commanded the "Indus" in the Mediterranean, and during the war with Russia was Commander-in-Chief in China and the East Indies.

During the years 1838–1839, Lieutenant Grey (afterwards the famous Sir George Grey, Father of New Zealand) made some exploring expeditions, and dis-

covered some excellent and fertile country in the tropical regions of the Colony, but hostile natives, by whom he was severely wounded, prevented him exploring to the extent he would wish. His hardships and sufferings were many, but he showed great gallantry and endurance.

He seems to have gone out as an explorer under the direction of the Royal Geographical Society, and the Government sanctioned the expedition on account of an opinion held by Dampier and Captain King, as to the probability of the existence of a large inlet in those parts, which would give access into the interior of Australia. A river which he traced for some distance is called De Grey River.

On his second expedition he explored near Shark's Bay, and the coast southward, but soon he and his men were obliged to abandon their ship, which was leaky, and land on an inhospitable region without any provisions, which had been washed away by a terrible storm. They were 600 miles from the nearest settlement, and after great privation and almost starvation, they reached Perth in a most wretched plight. When Grey arrived in Perth, the new Governor, Mr. John Hutt, appointed him Resident at Albany, a post which he filled with much satisfaction during his short stay in Western Australia, and he showed a great deal of wisdom in his dealings with the Aborigines, by giving them "employment suited to the natural or acquired capacity of the persons employed, to bestow a sufficient reward for the work accomplished in a speedy and certain manner, and to hold out the prospect of some further reward in future as a consequence of continued industry and good conduct."

Mr. John Hutt, who succeeded Sir James Stirling as Governor, arrived at the beginning of January, 1839, and from the comparatively good progress the Colony made during his administration, it is evident that he was the right man in the right place, and during his seven years term of government the population more than doubled.

Previous to the arrival of Mr. Hutt, there had been

practically no increase in the population since the end of 1830, though it would be ungenerous to blame Sir James Stirling for this, for he had been indefatigable in his efforts to further the progress of the settlement under very trying and uninviting circumstances, and at a time when the outside world, if not the colonists themselves, looked upon the Colony as a failure; but it must be admitted that he proved himself more successful as a naval officer (in which capacity he had a very distinguished career) than as a founder of a colony.

THE NATIVE BLACKS, OR THE ABORIGINES.

It has been said of Governeor Hutt by those who knew him and were capable of judging his character, that he was a man of enlightened mind, firm, sagacious and benevolent; and this is quite true of him, especially if we regard him from the great wisdom which he exhibited in dealing with the savage tribes, in whom he took a great deal of interest. We have just referred to the wise policy of Grey at Albany, and it is also worthy of note that Sir James Stirling had very early established an institution on Mount Eliza for their benefit, which reflected much credit upon him, but Mr. Hutt's native policy proved of more practical value in its results as regards the Aborigines themselves, and the white settlers, by a firm administration of equal justice to both. "Exhibiting on all occasions a friendly interest in their welfare, he yet maintained a strict authority over them that they soon learned to respect and fear him. The Aborigines were easily brought to feel that their surest protection lay in the Government, that every act of violence committed upon them by individual settlers was sure to be avenged by the whites themselves, and that, as certainly, any aggression on the part of the natives would call down the utmost severity of punishment upon the offenders."

Upon the whole, the people of Western Australia have shown more humanity in their dealings with the Aborigines than the settlers of any other part of Australia. In this Colony there never was such a practice

as wholesale extermination, which was perpetrated in Tasmania and other parts, and at the present day the native blacks are on most friendly terms with the white people. In many cases they are very useful, especially in the northern parts of the territory, where European servants are difficult to obtain on account of the tropical conditions of the climate. As shepherds they are without equals, and their experience of the bush is a great help on sheep and cattle stations. Indeed, the demand for black labour is very great in some districts, for it means cheap labour, and those who are engaged in pastoral pursuits cannot always afford to pay the high wages demanded by whites. The early settlers of Western Australia from the very first exhibited a kindly spirit towards these sons of the desert, but troubles arose for a time. These temporary troubles, however, did not originate from any tendency to violence on the part of the Colonists, or even aggression on the part of the natives, but rather from the circumstances of the times. I have already referred to the sufferings of the early settlers. Indeed, at times during the first three or four years, food was very scarce, even for money, especially fresh meat, and at one time, condemned salt beef, which had been buried as unfit for food, was disinterred, and sold at a 1/- a pound. Scarcity of this kind compelled the people to hunt the kangaroo in the bush, in order to supply themselves with meat. Now, by continual kangaroo hunting, the game upon which the Aborigines so much depended for food became scarce, till the tribes of some districts were obliged to trespass on the property of other tribes, which caused regular feuds, if not wars, between them, as the natives of Australia are very conservative, and the rights of property very strictly observed. When things came to this, the blacks could not look with friendly eyes upon the white intruders who caused all these troubles, and this led them to be more aggressive. But by degrees, the wise policy of the Government, kindness and fair dealing from the hands of settlers, the influence of civilization, and above all the noble efforts of missionaries, especially that of the Church of England and Roman Catholics, have all

contributed towards making them what they are at present—harmless, docile and useful.

The natives in the interior, outside the settled districts, are still in their wild estate, and probably will remain unmolested by white men for some generations, at least in dry and barren regions, but there is no doubt, however, as to the ultimate fate of these unfortunate but interesting people, as well as that of the Indians in America—total extinction.

A few words on the mode of life and superstitions of these curious people will undoubtedly prove interesting to those of our readers who have never studied their characteristics. I do not intend, however, to worry the reader's patience by attempting to trace the origin of the Australian Blacks, a subject, which, after all the speculations and elaborate investigations of the learned, is perhaps quite as undecided now as it was 50 years ago; but as to the extreme antiquity of the race all agree.

Undoubtedly, in those remote days, when the Ancient Britons were clad in skins and painted their faces, and the Anglo-Saxons roamed about for booty and plunder, worshipping the gods of war and the thunder, the Australian savage wandered about among the eucaluptus trees or scrubby bush, naked or covered with kangaroo skins. Whilst we, as a nation, have made such wonderful progress in civilization, and gradually arrived at what we are now, the primitive inhabitants of the Great South Land made no advancement towards improving their condition. Old voyagers, such as Dampier and others whom I have already referred to, seemed to have formed a very poor opinion of these people, and regarded them not much above the beast that perisheth, but those who have become better acquainted with them, know that they are not so low as they have been generally depicted, though from an European point of view they appear extremely ugly in their features, especially the women.

In the northern parts of Western Australia, there are tribes of strong men of six feet in height, but in all other parts of the country the average height of the

WEST AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES IN WAR PAINT.

Photo by Mr. Lancaster, Perth, W. A.] *[Engraved by Cassell & Co., London.*

men does not exceed five feet five and a half inches, and that of the women about five feet one inch. As a rule, their limbs are rather attenuated, exhibiting a striking contrast to the Patagonian Indians, who had such strong legs and arms. Their faces are black in colour, although not so dark as the Africans. It is a dark copper colour skin, with brownish pink in the palms of the hands. Their mouths and the bones of the face are very large, with thick protruding lips. Some of them have long beards. The colour of their hair is black, but it is long and straight, and not woolly like that of the Africans. They have good teeth, as is generally the case with most savages, but they have a curious custom of drawing out two of the front teeth on the upper jaw. They perform this ceremony at a certain age by means of two stones, one stone being placed against the tooth which is to be knocked out, and the other used as a hammer. Strange to say, under such a painful operation the native hardly ever groans or screams, as a white man would surely do under such circumstances. Sometimes they paint their bodies in a most curious manner. As is natural for people who lead a wandering life, these Aborigines do not take the trouble to build houses, neither do they cultivate the land, for they hate work. Their dwellings or huts, if they deserve the name, are erected by placing pronged sticks some distance from each other, and a pole is run from prong to prong ; branches of trees, or sticks, are set to lean against these, and all the holes between, or crevices, are filled up with boughs or bark. It is not often that the natives take the trouble, except in cold weather, to erect a very substantial hut, as they do not remain long in the same place, but roam about a great deal, so that a hut erected to-day may be deserted to-morrow, or at least within a few days. They are generally satisfied with putting a few boughs together, to meet at the top in the form of a tent, and very often, in the warmer climate, they lie down in the open air "the earth being their bed, and the heaven their canopy," and feel quite as happy, and perhaps more contented, than a gentleman in his palace, especially as long as

they can get anything to eat, and they are not particular about the quality if they can get sufficient quantity, and so their bill of fare is an extensive one—kangaroos, emus, seals, whales, woombats, opossums, birds, and eggs (not the least objection if they are rotten ones); white ants are eaten alive. They have also a great relish for snakes, frogs, lizards, rats, mice, roots, fruit, and the leaves of the grass tree or "black boy."

It is said that when they are on the verge of starvation and have no other means of obtaining food, that they are guilty of the barbarous practice of bandaging the arm of the strongest man, and cutting a vein, whilst another black, taking the powdered root of a tree, allows the blood to trickle into it, and when the mass is damped it is formed into a ball which they eat. It is supposed by some that cannibalism is still practised by some of the savage tribes in the interior, especially among the Queensland natives, where fat people are liable to be stolen and eaten, and a man who has a stout wife is very careful not to allow her to wander very far alone. I have also heard of blacks on the goldfields of Western Australia who were afraid of returning to the interior lest they should be eaten.

They seem to subsist a great deal on the meat of the kangaroo. Indeed, I am almost inclined to say that what the guanaco and ostrich are to the Patagonian Indians, the kangaroo and the emu are to the Aborigines of Australia.

There is a fable among them that the kangaroo was originally blind, and could only walk or crawl; but that the frog, seeing the unfortunate animal so much at the mercy of its enemies, took compassion on it and anointed the sightless eyeballs of the kangaroo with its salvina and told it to hop as he did. The kangaroo did so, and has now become the most difficult animal in the world to catch.

The kangaroo is not so easily caught, and the blacks have no guns; but they have many clever ways of hunting the animal, and sometimes they follow its track for days and nights in order to run him down.

When the kangaroo is caught, the way of cooking it

is by digging a big hole in the ground to serve as an oven, in which a large fire is made. When the sides and bottom of this so-called oven or hole in the sand are thoroughly heated, they put the whole animal, skin included, into it, and cover it over carefully with hot embers. The snake, also, which is considered a dainty morsel, is cooked very much in the same way.

It must be remembered, however, that these blacks, as well as white people, have more than one method of cooking, and sometimes when they are too lazy or tired to light a fire they devour their meat raw. Should two men be hunting the kangaroo, the law of the chase provides that the one who happens to throw the first spear owns the animal. The kangaroo provides these sons of the happy hunting ground with meat, and its skin is useful to them as a covering for their bodies.

They have, as a rule, a good many dogs about them, which were originally dingos, or wild dogs, and their kindness is very apparent in their treatment of these dumb animals and little children. Sometimes, women give suck to a puppy which has lost its mother, from pity.

These Aborigines are very improvident, eating one day three or four times more than nature requires, even at the expense of starving the following day. They are very good-natured to one another, often sharing their meat or other provisions without grudging. On occasions, when it happens to be the good fortune of a party to come upon a dead whale, which has been thrown ashore on the sea coast, they very often invite a neighbouring tribe to come and join them in eating it, and men, women and children will eat their way into this great sea monster till they are covered with grease from head to foot, and as long as this feast lasts, a merry time is spent in eating, singing, dancing and drama performing. Often, however, these jolly occasions end in feuds, when a few have their heads cut off.

Their weapons, or implements, are spears, lances, clubs, shields, wommeras, and boomerangs. Strange to say, they have no bows and arrows. The boomerang is a weapon of their own invention, and it is quite

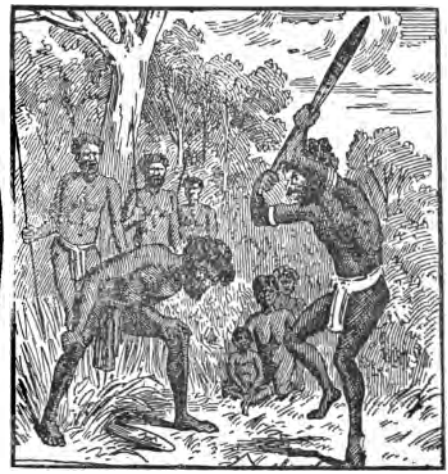
unknown in every other country. What is very remarkable about the boomerang is, that when thrown by a skilful native, even for fifty or a hundred yards, it returns back to within a few feet of the thrower, unless it strikes the object aimed at. Europeans are unable to throw it like the Aborigines. I have heard that the natives of India have a weapon in some respects similar to it, but not a *returning boomerang*, like that of the Aborigines of Australia.

It will be of interest, perhaps, to mention that some of the Aborigines, inhabiting the northern sea coast of Western Australia, make a kind of rough canoe from logs, for the purpose of fishing, and they succeed in making excellent nets of twine, made of the fibre of a coarse wild grass or rush, known as Spinifex.

Among the Aborigines a man may have as many wives as he can get, but he is not allowed to marry until he has subscribed to three compulsory ceremonies—hunger, exposure and mutilation. Their marriage laws, which they enforce, forbid a man to marry his mother, sister, daughter, grand-daughter, aunt, niece, first or second cousin, and when he dies his eldest brother is to marry his wife or wives. A female child is betrothed to a man almost from her very birth, and he can claim her when she is in a marriageable age, and strange to say, the old men succeed in securing most of the young women for themselves, so that it is often the case that a young man can't get a wife at all. As a consequence of this greed, one man often steals the wife of another, and this in its turn leads to love affair duels, when one of the two lovers concerned bends down his head (see illustration), so that his rival may give him a blow with all his might with his club, after which the other must bow his head to receive a blow in return, and often this cruel and curious game is continued till one of the two combatants is disabled or killed. The woman belongs to the victor. There is another kind of duel also common among these blacks, in which the duelists use both clubs and shields.

In a civilized country, when we see a young woman marry an old man, people are very ready to remark that

she is uniting herself to him for the sake of his money, or some other advantage, but among the Australian savages the unfortunate young woman has no choice in the matter, for she is compelled to bind herself to the old man to whom she has been promised from her very infancy, and to be practically his slave, whether she likes it or not. Should a young man fall in love with her, and prevail upon her to run away with him, they would have to wander alone through forest and desert, or among strangers, and woe to them if they are caught by their pursuers, for the fate of the young man will be to be speared, and the young woman to be severely punished by her husband.



LOVE AFFAIR DUELS.

There is no doubt, that the higher a nation is in civilization, the more a woman is respected, but as a rule, among savages, wives are regarded as assets or slaves, to perform all the hard work, and this is especially the case with the blacks of Australia. We generally see them going about, the husband walking on in front, carrying nothing but his light spear or his boomerangs—

or if he has some kind of European clothes on, his hands in his pockets, whilst his poor wife has to follow behind him, carrying on her back a big bag in which are packed all the luggage, and the baby (if any) included. Very often she has to carry a heavy burden of this kind for many miles in a day, and I have heard of one woman who had to carry 100 pounds weight of luggage on her back for nearly twenty miles in a single day. In connection with food, again, women are badly treated; the husband picks and eats the choice bits of meat himself, leaving the remainder to his wife or wives, very much like throwing bones to dogs.

The Aborigines seem to be, as a rule, very contented, gay, and full of song and laughter, and their evenings are often passed merrily in the forests in tale telling and singing, and nothing gives them more amusement than the performance of a *corroboree*, an interesting dramatic entertainment peculiar to these people, and which forms a striking feature in their life. The performers take a great deal of pain to prepare themselves for the occasion, which generally takes place on a moonlight night, or at a friendly meeting of two different tribes. They ornament themselves, and paint their bodies in stripes and in different colours in a most curious and fearful manner, and in this *corroboree* or drama they dance and perform all kinds of most fearful and exciting gesticulations, vividly depicting incidents of the chase, war, and love adventures, especially imitating a kangaroo hunt, when one character represents the timid animal trying to escape, and the other character the bold hunter in pursuit. These jolly amusements are often kept up all night till they are tired out.

The natives sometimes attempt at some kind of poetry, as follows :—

"Kad-ju bar-dook,
War-bung-a-loo,
War-bung-a-loo,
Kad-ju bar-dook,
War-bung-a-loo,
War-bung-a-loo,
War-bung-a-loo."

What surprises most people in connection with these curious sons of the desert is the total absence of religious ideas. I have heard it said many times by some people that there are not any tribes of the human race without some form or other of religion; but it seems that this opinion is not altogether correct, for the Australian Aborigines do not know that there is a God, except those who have been under the influence of missionaries. Still, strange to say, we cannot be less than struck with the resemblances of some of their practices with some of the ceremonies subscribed in the Law of Moses. Circumcision is practised among them, not as a religious rite, but as an initiating ceremony of admitting a young man into the rights and privileges of manhood—a privilege much coveted, as it entitles him to more luxuries in the way of food. I have already referred to their marriage laws.

These Aborigines have no idols of any kind, neither do they worship anything, but they seem to believe in the existence of evil spirits, and have a particular dread of a particular ghost which they call "Jingi," which is supposed to haunt the dense forest. This "Jingi" seems to me to have been very much the same imaginary being as the "Gwalicha" of the Patagonian Indians, but whilst the Patagonians offer a little meat now and again to their evil spirit, to keep him from molesting them, the Australians do not take this trouble, I believe, but are very careful to keep a large fire for him at night.

The natives indulge in large fires at their encampments in the evenings, and the fuel is plentiful in the bush. Each family has its own fire, but the bachelors and young men have a fire for themselves. Near the encampment there is another big fire, which is carefully provided with fuel, but at which no man sits; this is known as "Jingi's Fire." Their belief is that should this evil spirit come around in the night to terrify them, finding a comfortable and roaring fire, he will sit down by it and leave them rest unmolested. The blacks also believe that roaring fires keep away some evil spirits which hover in the air. Besides "Jingi," they also believe in another evil spirit which they call "Wangle,"

that inhabits solitary pools and which appears in the shape of an immense serpent; this is a water-serpent ghost. They also believe that the spirits of their dead parents and relations appear, and therefore they are very careful in burying to set the corpse as secure as possible, to prevent its escape in the form of a ghost, for the spirit is supposed to be very powerful, much more so than what the person was when alive. It is very common among them to remove the thumb nail, and tie both thumb and forefinger together crossways, so as to disable the spirit to throw the spear. The hair is also cut off, and the body tied up in the grave in a sitting posture, and some go as far as to break the limbs and tie the body into a ball before burial. The implements and weapons of the dead man are placed upon his grave, and his widow cuts herself in a most terrible manner, and paints her head with streaks of white, howling hideously at the same time at the melancholy occasion. So strong is the superstition of the blacks of the re-appearance of a dead man in the form of a ghost that when white people first settled in Western Australia, they were taken as the spirits of the dead who could not keep away from their old hunting grounds.

If anyone dies when he is young, or at any stage of life before he is very old, another life must be taken to avenge it from another tribe, for their belief is that death comes only from the decay of old age or from assassination by an enemy. If this imaginary enemy is not seen in the act of slaying, he is supposed to have done so by coming to the encampment secretly from another tribe in the depth of night, or to have done the evil deed through the help of the dark art of a sorcerer, or in some other mysterious way. Thus by force of this barbarous *lex talionis*, a death in one tribe is followed by a death in another tribe in retaliation, and thus the different tribes are kept in continual feuds or warfare with one another. But at the same time their wars are not very important, and very few fall on the field of battle, for they exhibit more of the outward show of voice and threats than any real courage or desire to kill, for upon the whole it cannot be said that these Abori-

gines are a warlike race; their feuds arise more from the influence of their barbarous codes of laws and customs than from any inherent craving for bloodshed, and it must be remembered that those who are under the influence of white people are quite harmless, and are friendly among themselves and others, at least in Western Australia.

HISTORY, EXPLORATION AND PROGRESS OF THE COLONY.

During the time that Mr. John Hutt was Governor (1839—1845), the population increased from about 2,000 to 4,500, but this increase seems to have been due to a certain extent to assisted immigration. Still, it made the Colony pick up a little, and as early as 1841 a bank was opened for the first time, and was known as the West Australian Bank. In 1843, Messrs Lefroy and Landor explored some of the interior of the country east from York (an inland agricultural district). These two gentlemen had learnt from the blacks of the existence of a great inland sea, which, however, turned out to be nothing but a lake of about six miles long when they arrived at the spot; but they came upon some excellent pastoral land in their travels. This was perhaps the first journey into the interior of Western Australia, but it must not be forgotten that Sir James Stirling and Surveyor-General Roe had done some valuable exploring work previous to this.

In 1845, sandal wood was exported for the first time. For many years a brisk trade was carried on in it between Western Australia and China, for the manufacture, as I understand, of incense tapers burnt on Buddhist altars.

In January, 1846, Governor Hutt was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, who was followed from February, 1847, till August, 1848, by Colonel Irwin, when Captain Fitzgerald arrived, whose term of office lasted till the middle of 1855. Previous to his appointment to Western Australia he had been Governor of the Gambia.

In December, 1848, not long after his arrival in the Colony, the Governor undertook an exploring expedition to the Champion Bay District in order to confirm Mr. A. C. Gregory's (a notable explorer) reported discovery of a lead mine in that district. He was speared by the natives, and narrowly escaped with his life.

In this year (1848) the land under cultivation was 7,047 acres, whilst the population numbered 4,622; cattle and horses numbered about 12,000; sheep nearly 150,000; the value of exports amounted to £25,000, and imports to about £30,000. During Governor Fitzgerald's administration, convicts were first introduced into the Colony. In an old book published on Western Australia in 1839, I came upon the following words:—"Western Australia can never be made a penal settlement." It is evident that whoever uttered these words, he proved himself a false prophet, for between the years 1850 and 1860, about 10,000 convicts were landed in the country. A great deal has been written and said on this subject from time to time, some regarding the introduction of convicts as a sad misfortune, whilst others maintain that it was a step in the right direction, and that Western Australia would have proved a failure as a Colony, but for this boon. Undoubtedly every question has its two sides, and so it is in this case.

From its very beginning the progress of the Colony had been very slow, and its development retarded from the want of population, labour, money, markets, roads, &c., so that it was often a hard struggle for existence, and at last, when the settlers were reduced to the direst straits, they decided to petition the Government in England to make the Colony a penal settlement. It happened that about that period a great agitation prevailed in New South Wales against the introduction of any more of these undesirable immigrants into that country, as it was felt that the taint of convict element contributed seriously towards the moral degeneration of the community. Thus the British Government, not knowing what to do with these malefactors, was only too glad to grant the people of Western Australia their request by sending them what New South Wales would

no longer receive. It has been said that those who were sent to Western Australia were not of the worst class of criminals, but still, the presence of so many of them could not less than have the effect of lowering the moral standard of the Colony, and increase crime, and whilst they added greatly to the number of the population, it kept away for many years hundreds, if not thousands, of respectable intending immigrants from landing and making their home in the Colony. Men in England argued with themselves that should they go out and settle in a penal settlement, after the lapse of years, they would be suspected of having been convicts themselves by many of those who were not originally acquainted with them. It should not be forgotten, however, that there were many other things besides the presence of convicts calculated to draw the attention of people from landing in Western Australia in those days, especially the great attraction to the Goldfields of Victoria. The continual discoveries in the other Colonies were a constant drag upon the population of the Western Colony. All these circumstances made it not only very difficult to draw immigration to its shores, but equally so to keep the new arrivals in the country. On the other hand, if we look upon the introduction of convicts into West Australia from another point of view, we must admit that they were a great boon to the country in many respects. In the first place, the Government expenditure in connection with these criminals gave a stimulus to trade and industry in the settlement, and further, they were put to work to make roads, bridges, jetties, cut down trees, and many other public works absolutely necessary for the successful development of the resources of a pioneering Colony.

From July, 1855, to 1862, Mr. A. E. Kennedy was Governor.

John S. Hampton arrived on the 27th of February, 1862. During the intervening few days between his arrival and the departure of the former Governor (Kennedy), Col. Bruce administered as Acting-Governor. Governor Hampton's administration lasted from February, 1862, to November, 1868. He seems to have many

admirers in Western Australia, as he endeavoured to bring about a change for the better, as for some years previous to his arrival there had been some dissatisfaction among the people against the Government. His former experience as Comptroller-General of convicts at Tasmania enabled him to employ convict labour to the best advantage of the Colony, so that the country made considerable progress, and pastoral stations spread as far as the north-west, and people began to advocate the introduction of Representative Government, and the construction of tramways and railways to the agricultural and mineral districts. It seems that the Governor and his Council did not encourage these spirited undertakings, probably regarding them as premature, or a fear that money could not be found to carry them out. About the time of the departure of Governor Hampton from Western Australia in November, 1868, the population numbered 22,733, and over 50,000 acres of land under crop. The revenue for the same year amounted to £99,496, whilst the expenditure was only £89,726, so that the receipts exceeded the expenditure by £9,770. From November, 1868, to September, 1869, Col. Bruce administered as Acting-Governor, at the end of which time Governor F. A. Weld arrived, who gave much satisfaction to the people, encouraging their aspirations by introducing such Representative Government as far as he was permitted by the Colonial Office at home. The first Legislative Council under Representative Government met in 1870.

Besides political reforms, Governor Weld turned his attention to everything that contributed towards the furtherance and prosperity of the Colony. He began to arrange for regular steamboat communication between the principal ports of the vast territory—Albany, Bunbury, Freemantle, and Geralton,—and the question of telegraphic communication did not escape his attention, and he had the satisfaction of planting the first pole of the line of wires which has since brought Western Australia into direct communication with the other parts of Australia.

The Government obtained a loan of £39,000 from

England in 1872 for various public works, and in 1873 another loan of £100,000 for the extension of telegraph and railway. During this energetic Governor's time of office, Mr. (now Sir John) Forrest made several important and enterprising explorations. The first he undertook was in 1869, when he penetrated 250 miles further eastward than any previous explorer. The exploration was fitted out to search for the remains of Leechhart, who had been lost in 1848 in trying to explore the interior of Australia from the Darling Downs to Perth. A second expedition, under Mr. Forrest, set out for Adelaide from Perth in 1870, travelling along the southern coast. Mr. J. Forrest accomplished this journey without enduring such privations as Eyre, who had undertaken this journey from Adelaide to Perth many years previously. Four years later—in 1874—Forrest and his brother, two other white men, and two natives, undertook a journey which will for ever immortalize his name in the history of Australia, as perhaps the most famous and boldest of her explorers, when he performed the stupendous feat of crossing the centre of Western Australia, from Geralton on the west coast to the northern telegraph line of South Australia. The first part of this journey, it is true, was accomplished with but little difficulty, as it lay along river-courses and well grassed country, and Sir John Forrest and his party were fortunate in discovering some wells, but as they marched in an easterly direction into the vast and inhospitable interior, the troubles and hardships which they had to endure soon began, especially from the difficulty of finding water, but under all their terrible privations not one of the plucky party murmured, but bravely pushed forward. They were more than once attacked by savages, but the loud-sounding guns drove away the wild sons of the desert in intense fear. Sometimes the horses were so undone that they had to be forced along, and the leader and his followers had to walk hundreds of miles through a dreary country of spinifex desert and sandy hills. By following the hills or dunes they managed to get sufficient water to sustain life, and occasionally springs were discovered. Some-

times they came across rocky cavities in which water was conserved when rain fell. Pushing forward, or rather crawling along, day after day the plucky and courageous explorer and his fellows got further east, and when about 1,000 miles away from the settled parts of Western Australia their condition was dangerous in the extreme. It was impossible to return, as the horses had consumed nearly all the water in the sandy or rocky reservoirs. By going forward more quickly to find water, and leaving the others of the party to follow, Mr. Forrest, or his brother Alexander, managed to get through this awful country, and fortunately at the very time when a collapse was impending, they came across good springs and were timely saved. On the 27th of September they reached the desirable telegraph line which goes through the interior of Australia, from south to north. After reaching this line, they were able to follow it south to Adelaide, where Sir John Forrest was received and welcomed with the honour and rejoicings which such an enterprising pioneer explorer deserved. It is very amusing to hear what one of the native blacks, who accompanied him in this stupendous feat, said at the banquet held in honour of the great explorer's return to Perth, the capital city of Western Australia:—"Well, gentlemen," the black fellow said, "I am very thankful to get back to the Swan River, Bunbury, and Freemantle. I thought that we never get back again. Many a time I go into camp, going through desert places, and say, Master Forrest, where the devil you are going to? Master say, Hush, what are you talking about? I'll take you right through to Adelaide; and I hush. I always obey him. I only a black fellow, you know, but I am all thankful. I am always very glad to see white fellow around me."

About this time there seems to have been a great agitation in Western Australia for Responsible Government, or Home Rule. For many years before this, all the other Australian Colonies enjoyed this privilege of governing themselves, and the people of Westralia thought that it was high time they should have the same privilege. I have already noticed how Governor Weld

had brought about political reforms in introducing what is known as Representative Government, which may be regarded as a step towards self-government, but an incomplete one. Though the people were represented in the Legislative Council, it was a kind of representation which was combined with the control of the Colonial Office in England, under which conditions the Governor had practically to perform both offices of Governor and Premier combined, which sometimes exposed him to severe criticism, and this complicated form of government continued until the initiation of Responsible Government in 1890.

In1875 Sir W. C. F. Robinson arrived as Governor, and in spite of all agitation the Imperial Government decided against conceding Responsible Government to the Colony, considering that the country was not prepared for so great a change.

Sir W. Robinson left the Colony in September, 1877, and was succeeded by Sir Harry Ord, who arrived in November of the same year. During Ord's administration the first railway in Western Australia was opened for traffic in 1879. This line was about 35 miles in length, and had been constructed for the purpose of carrying the lead and copper ore from a district known as Northampton to the port of Geralton, a town situated 250 miles north from Perth, so that the first railway opened in Western Australia was far from the Capital, just as the first line in England was between Liverpool and Manchester, and not in the neighbourhood of London. According to the Blue Books of the Colony, we find that a loan of £200,000 had been obtained in 1879, and in 1881 a further loan of £150,000 was raised by the Government for carrying out the construction, or rather extension, of the Freemantle, Perth and Guilford Railway, and which was opened that year (1881).

Immediately on the departure of Sir H. Ord in 1880, Sir W. Robinson returned. About this time Mr. A. Forrest discovered and explored the northern parts of the country, known as the Kimberly District, and as some good land had been found there, the place was first settled in 1882.

In February, 1883, Governor Robinson left for South Australia, to be Governor there, and Chief Justice Wrensfordly administered the affairs of the Government, but he also left Western Australia in May. In June of the same year Sir F. N. Broome arrived and assumed the Government, and during his absence in 1884 Chief Justice Onslow administered. In 1885 gold was discovered in the northern districts of the country.

About 1887 Governor Broome used his authority rather arbitrary in suspending the Chief Justice, which suspension was soon removed by the Colonial Office at Home.

The agitation for Responsible Government was now renewed in real earnest, and by an almost unanimous vote of the Legislative Council a resolution was carried in favour of self-government for the Colony, and the Governor was requested to take the necessary steps to carry out their wishes, but it was about three years after this that Home Rule was granted, the delay having been occasioned by the fact that public opinion in England seems to have been rather unfavourable to the handing over of a large territory about eight times the size of Great Britain and Ireland into the hands and entire control of a people numbering only about 40,000 souls. No doubt a great deal might be said in favour of this argument, but every one who is acquainted with the history of Western Australia for the ten years preceding, and the ten years succeeding the granting of full self-government to the Colony, must confess that the contrast is somewhat surprising.

During the ten years immediately prior to the initiation of Responsible Government, viz. 1880–1890, the increase in the population was only about 17,000, whilst during the same number of years following the granting of the boon, viz. 1890–1900, the increase was above 130,000, though it is only fair to admit that this marvellous progress was due to a certain extent to the discovery of gold and the progressive policy of Sir John Forrest, who was the Premier for so many years.

In 1888 a Loan Act was passed for the obtaining of a loan of £1,000,000 for Public Works.

In December of the same year His Excellency the Governor, acting in accordance with instructions from the Colonial Office in England, dissolved the Legislative Council, and a General Election took place in January, 1889, in order to give the people an opportunity of declaring themselves on the proposed political change. The Election proved that the constituents were all unanimous in favour of Responsible Government, which was followed by fruitful results, for on the 25th of July, 1890, the Act entitled "The Constitution Act," which has been called by many the Magna Charter of Western Australia, was passed by the Imperial Government.

The Responsible Government was inaugurated on the 21st of October by His Excellency Sir W. Robinson, who on this occasion was beginning his third term of office as Governor of the Colony, and to him was reserved the honour and pleasure of bringing out to the country and proclaiming the New Constitution. He had much experience of Western Australia, as he was the only one of her Governors who had been appointed to administer for three terms. On this date, October 21st, 1890, the Old Legislature was abolished, and the New Parliament—under the New Constitution, or self-government—met on the 30th of December, which consisted of two Houses, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Council is the Upper House, or the House of Lords so to speak, and the Lower House, known as the Legislative Assembly, corresponds to the House of Commons in England.

The fact that Western Australia has two Houses of Parliament at the present day, with a small population of 200,000, will perhaps be a little surprising to those in Great Britain who advocate the abolishment of the House of Lords, contending that one House is enough for a country which has a population of over 40,000,000.

The first Legislative Council or Upper House, under self-government, consisted of the following Members, and were appointed by the Governor:—Honourable J.

G. H. Amherst,* T. Burges, Sir T. C. Campbell, J. W. Hackett, R. W. Hardy, J. H. Monger, J. Morrison, J. A. Wright, E. R. Brookman, R. E. Bush, M. Grant, E. Hamersley, G. W. Leake, W. D. Moore, G. Shenton.

The first Legislative Assembly, or the House of Commons of Western Australia, consisted of 30 Members, each representing an Electoral District. They were as follows :—East Kimberly, W. L. Baker ; West Kimberly, A. Forrest ; Roebourne, H. W. Sholl (succeeded by G. W. Leake) ; De Grey, A. R. Richardson ; Ashburton, S. Burt ; Gascoyne, R. F. Sholl ; Murchison, E. F. Darlot ; Fremantle, W. E. Marmion ; North Fremantle, W. S. Pearse ; South Fremantle, D. Symon ; Murray, W. Paterson ; Wellington, H. W. Venn ; Bunbury, John Forrest ; Nelson, Sir James Lee Steere ; Sussex, J, Cookworthy ; Geralton, E. Keane ; Greenough, W. Traylen ; Irwin, S. J. Phillips ; Moore, J. Randell ; Swan, W. T. Loton ; Perth, E. Scott ; East Perth, F. A. Canning ; West Perth, T. F. Quinlan ; Toodyay, B. D. Clarkson ; Northam, G. Throssell ; York, S. H. Parker ; Beverley, C. Harper ; Williams, F. Piesse ; Plantagenet, A. E. Hassell ; Albany, L. V. De Hamel.

The first Ministry consisted of the following gentlemen :—Mr. (now Sir) John Forrest, M.L.A., Premier and Treasurer ; G. Shenton, M.L.C., Colonial Secretary ; S. Burt, M.L.A., Attorney General ; W. E. Marmion, M.L.A., Minister for Lands ; H. W. Venn, M.L.A.,† Minister (or Commissioner) for Railways and Public Works.

This Ministry was a strong and hard-working "team," and the Premier, Sir John Forrest, with whom West Australian politics have so largely been bound up for so

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* The Hon. J. G. H. Amherst was a son of the late Earl of Amherst, Kent, and brother of the present Earl. He had left England for the benefit of his health, and settled down as a West Australian country gentleman, and died at his residence, Darlington, on February 1st, 1900.

† M.L.A. means Member of the Legislative Assembly, and corresponds with M.P. in England ; and M.L.C. means Member of the Legislative Council (Colonial House of Lords).

many years, has from the very first of his election as leader, shown great activity and energy in pushing forward the construction of railways and all manner of public works that were likely to advance the progress and prosperity of the Colony, and this spirited policy he continued throughout the period of over ten years in which he was Premier.

During the first Session, which was short, the Government, which seems to have been strongly supported, carried everything before them, and the most important measure introduced was the Loan Bill for £1,336,000.

In those days the Lower House was very favourable to the Forrest Ministry, but it seems that the Upper House was more conservative, for when the Government, with a view to giving the goldfield districts which were springing up a more direct representation, introduced a Bill to abolish the property qualification of members, to extend the franchise, and add two new members to the Legislative Council and three to the Legislative Assembly, the Bill was rejected by the Upper House; this was in 1892. At the end of the same year the population was estimated at 58,674, the cattle numbered 162,836, horses 44,806, sheep 1,685,500; three years previously the sheep numbered as many as 2,336,681, the decrease being due to want of rain, and severe droughts during the years 1890-1-2, which caused great losses of stock.

The financial position of the Colony was as follows:—Balance in Treasury, £100,919; Public Debt, £2,261,863; Sinking Fund, £114,294; Revenue, £543,888; Expenditure, £550,616. There were numerous public works under construction, and the goldfields began to attract the attention of a large number of people.

Early in 1893 the Parliament prorogued after having been in session since November, 1892. During the session the Acts passed were 19 in number. On July 5th, the Parliament was called together for another session, the last or closing session of the first Parliament under Responsible Government.

Under the Constitution Act which was passed by the

Imperial Government in July, 1890, giving self-government to Western Australia, it had been enacted that the Upper House, or Legislative Council, of the Colony was to be a nominee chamber for the first six years, or till the population should reach 60,000, and in accordance with this enactment the members of that House had been appointed by the Governor up till now.

Though only three years had passed since the initiation of Responsible Government, the population reached 60,000, and this empowered the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the constitution in order to make the members of the Legislative Council elective, and from that time forth they have been elected by the people, and not nominated by the Governor as before.

Gold-mining was now beginning to prove a potent factor in the development of the Colony, and a good many people were rushing from other Colonies, so that a considerable amount of prospecting was carried on in different parts of the vast country. For many years after the foundation of Western Australia it was thought that the country was destitute of gold or any other mineral deposits of any value, and strange to say, though the Government introduced experienced men, and prospecting parties went in search of the precious metal nearly 50 years ago, it was not found in any payable quantities till 1885, when the Government geologist, Mr. Hardman, published his report of the Kimberly District in the north. In 1868 small quantities had been discovered by a man named Hill, at the head of the Irwin Valley, which discovery caused a great deal of excitement, and attracted a number of gold diggers from other Australian Colonies. These were, however, much disappointed, for they did not discover any large and payable quantities. In 1887 gold reefs were discovered in the Yilgarn Hills, about 200 miles east from Perth. The field was proclaimed in 1888, and the township of Southern Cross soon sprung up. In the same year rich reefs were discovered in the north-west, to the east of Roebourne Bay, and in 1890-91 the Murchison goldfields were discovered. But it was the discovery of Coolgardie, 300 miles east from

Perth, in 1892, that opened a new era in Western Australian mining, which resulted in towns springing up in the wilderness in a very short time, and soon the precious treasure made the once-despised convict settlement celebrated all over the world, for probably few countries possess such an area of gold-bearing land as Western Australia. As the area of the territory is very large, so, also, the golden areas are large, for discovery after discovery has followed in rapid succession in all parts of the country.

I find that the first recorded export of gold from Western Australia was in 1886, when 302 ozs., valued at £1,148 was exported. In the following year the quantity amounted to 4,873 ozs., and the amount so rapidly increased that the export was 207,131 ozs., valued at £787,098, in the year 1894. This was large when we consider that the total value of the exports of all articles during the same year only amounted to £1,251,406, and the population about 80,000.

The financial position of the Colony seemed to be in a very healthy condition, when we consider that there was an excess of revenue over the expenditure of £24,889. The total revenue was £681,246, and total expenditure £656,357.

During the same year the Eastern Railway was opened as far as Southern Cross in the Yilgarn Goldfields. Parliamentary Elections took place now, and on the 25th of July the second Parliament assembled, the Legislative Council having twenty-one elected members in lieu of the fifteen nominees, and the Legislative Assembly having thirty-three members in place of the thirty of the previous Parliament. A new loan Bill was passed for £1,500,000. In December Mr. W. E. Marmion resigned, and Mr. A. B. Richardson was appointed Minister for Lands in his stead, and the Premier himself undertook to perform the office of Colonial Secretary, which became vacant by the resignation of Mr. S. H. Parker, whilst Mr. E. H. Wittenoom accepted the new portfolio of Minister of Mines and Education, and in the first session of his taking office he introduced a Goldfield Bill, which was considered the most complete

of any since 1886. Development made it necessary that laws and regulations should be passed which were calculated to meet the conditions peculiar to the Colony. Early in 1895 Sir W. Robinson left the country, and Sir A. C. Onslow acted as administrator till the arrival of Sir Gerald Smith in December. Parliament opened on June 2nd, and amongst the Bills passed were several authorising construction of railways, State Education Bill, Ecclesiastical Grants Abolition and Mining Regulations' Bills.

In the year 1896 there seems to have been a great deal of agitation on the goldfields against the Government, though the times were as prosperous as ever. A railway was opened this year to Coolgardie, a rapidly growing town on the eastern goldfields, about 350 miles from Perth, which had no existence three or four years previously. Situated as these goldfields are, in a desert where there is but very little rain and no rivers, the great drawback was from the beginning, if not still, the scarcity of water, so that the miners began to agitate and cried to the Premier, Sir John Forrest, for water, like the people of Israel of old in the wilderness cried to Moses; and Sir John, who deserves the compliment of quoting scripture more often than the majority of Australians, replied by saying that he would meet the difficulty by commencing a water supply scheme which would satisfy their thirst to such an extent that future generations would say as Isaiah said of old, "They made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert," and the prediction is likely to become true, when we view the advancement, step by step, of the vast scheme known as the Coolgardie Water Scheme, which means the impounding of water in the Darling Range, about twenty miles from the sea, where the rainfall is abundant (about 40 inches annually), and by thus storing the precious liquid in a vast dam, make it to flow through iron pipes by means of a pump for a distance of nearly 350 miles, and deliver it on the goldfields at the rate of about 500,000,000 gallons of water daily.

It seems that the first to suggest that such a scheme was practicable, was Mr. O'Connor, the engineer-in-

chief, and an Act of Parliament for its construction was passed in 1896. This water scheme is not yet completed, but it is pushed forward with energy by the Government in face of all opposition. It is estimated that this artificial water supply, which is meant to bring greater development, prosperity, and comforts to the people of the goldfields, will cost about £3,000,000. The Government had to undertake this daring project as the only adequate means of solving the water problem.

During this year further constitutional amendments were introduced by the passing of the Reform Bill, by which eleven additional constituencies were created—eight seats allotted to the goldfields district, and three to other districts (metropolitan). In April, 1897, a General Election took place. The Parliament met this year only for a very short session, owing to the absence of the Premier and Members of the Cabinet in other Colonies and England, to attend Federal Conventions and festivities in connection with the completion of 60 years of her late Majesty's reign.

At the beginning of 1898, Sir J. Forrest and others left Perth to attend the Federal Convention at Melbourne, and almost immediately after his departure there was a great deal of agitation on the goldfields, where meetings were held and resolutions passed condemning the action of the Government in amending clause 103 of the Goldfields Regulations so as to prohibit alluvial miners on leases to dig to a greater depth than ten feet, and in March four men were imprisoned for having disobeyed an order of the Court restraining them from working for alluvial gold on the Ivanoe Lease. They were, however, released in the following month. When Sir John Forrest returned to the Colony, about the middle of March, the agitation was very serious, and the Acting-Premier, Mr. (now Sir) E. Wittenoom, was in peril of his life. Sir John, exhibiting that courage and fearlessness which he has always shown on all occasions, both in politics and explorations, proceeded without delay to the goldfields, in order to hear the grievances of the miners, with a view to redressing them if they were real, but the treatment he received was a

disgrace to civilization, and will always remain a black spot on the character and conduct of the miners of Kalgoorlie, for he was knocked down, kicked, and abused in a most unworthy and cowardly manner, because he would not at once grant their demands.

On April 2nd an Executive Meeting was held, when the Governor-in-Council resolved to rescind the ten feet rule, and the Premier recommended cancelling the new regulation which had given offence, and leave things as they were before.

In July, a new Gold Mining Bill was introduced into the Assembly by the Minister of Mines, Mr. Lefroy. The Bill was a very lengthy one, containing 202 clauses, and dealing with all the subjects covered in the previous Acts relating to the Regulations of West Australian Gold Mining, besides introducing new provisions. This Bill was under discussion for a long time in Parliament, but at the end of September, owing to other pressing matters, it was abandoned for the Session, and another short measure introduced in its place, which was duly passed. This short measure was intended to give "a fresh stimulus to the further investment of capital in our mining industry," and "whilst security of tenure is given to the leaseholder, all rights that have been exercised by the alluvial miner are fully protected."

Other important measures passed during the session were, The Land Amendment Act, and The Health Act for extending the powers of the Health Board.

The Parliament prorogued on October 28th by His Excellency Sir A. C. Onslow.

About the end of 1898, and the beginning of 1899, things were in a somewhat depressed state, especially in Perth, on account of the retrenchment which took place in the civil service, and as is natural a great deal of discontent followed, for the retrenchment deprived many of their means of livelihood at a very short notice, and which caused landlords to lose tenants, boarding house keepers to lose lodgers, and store-keepers to lose customers. At the same time, the step which the Government took was necessary and justifiable, on account of the increasing excess of expenditure over the revenue

during the period, so that Sir John Forrest felt it his duty as Premier to apply the principle of economy, in order to make revenue and expenditure balance, and once more replace the deficit with a credit balance. That he succeeded is proved by the fact that when he made his budget speech in 1900, there was an excess of revenue over expenditure of £259,721. Total revenue, £2,875,396! expenditure, £2,615,675.

In March, 1899, there was a very great flood on the De Grey River, in the north-west of the country.

In the same month a successful Exhibition was opened at Coolgardie, a mining town of importance. This Exhibition, which was got up through the energy and zeal of Mr. A. E. Morgans, M.L.A., proved a means of drawing the attention of the world at large to the importance of Western Australia, and undoubtedly the exhibits of the Colony, under the management of Mr. Venn, recently at Paris, and at present at the Glasgow Exhibition, have done more still in this direction.

In March and April, this year, the Premier, Sir J. Forrest, made a tour through the mining districts, visiting Colliefields, Coolgardie, Menzies, Mount Malcolm, and other places, and everywhere he was enthusiastically received by the people. The Governor, Sir G. Smith, also made a tour through some of the Murchison goldfields. Before the end of the year the alluvial agitation at Kalgoorlie (a large mining town) was renewed, and proved very troublesome. Ore was forcibly removed by the men, and the police were so powerless that they had to be reinforced from Perth. On December 13th a Separation League was formed on the eastern goldfields. On December 16th the Parliament was prorogued by His Excellency Sir Gerald Smith. The most important measures passed during the session were the Constitution Act Amendment Bill, extending the franchise to women, and giving increased representation in both Houses of Parliament, and also the Bill consolidating and amending the Electoral Act.

About January, 1900, it was reported that there was such excessive heat in the north-west that the thermometer went up to 116 degrees.

The Governor sailed for England on March 22nd, and on the following day Sir A. C. Onslow, Chief Justice, was sworn in as Administrator of the Government.

On the 17th of May the fifth session of the third Parliament of Western Australia was opened, but it prorogued on the 14th of June. The chief event of the short session was the passing of the Federal Enabling Bill, which gave to the people of the Colony an opportunity to say for themselves, by means of the ballot box, whether they were desirous of joining the Federal Union of the Australian States. The other Australian Colonies had already decided to do this. The Federation of Australia, which has just been inaugurated, is so well known in England that it is not necessary to dwell on it in a small book on Western Australia. Hitherto the Australian Colonies had no direct connection with one another; each one had its own peculiar interest without anything in common, having been founded at different times and under different conditions and circumstances. At times one Colony regarded another almost as a foreign country for every practical purpose, for often heavy duties were imposed on productions which were imported from one colony by another. That one Australian Colony should levy duties on the produce of another is rather surprising to many in Great Britain, where free trade is supreme, though I am afraid that this free trade policy will ultimately prove disastrous to its interests.

After a time of separation, if not of hostility, many leading politicians in Australia began to think that the time was drawing near when colony against colony spirit should cease, and that in order to combine the colonies more closely together an union should be effected by the establishment of a Federal Parliament, to be composed of representatives from all the different Australian States elected by the people, and a Governor-General appointed by the Imperial Government, and this Parliament to have full control over everything which did not interfere with the self-government or "State rights" of the Colonies concerned, for of course each Colony or State in the Australian Commonwealth still has its own Parliament and Governor. Canada had

taken this step nearly 40 years ago, and in Australia the idea was not quite a new one, and for some years past conventions had met at intervals to discuss the subject, and the Australian Federation was finally inaugurated on the 1st of January, 1901, so that the beginning of a century witnessed tne beginning of a nation. Whether Australia will benefit by this union time only can tell.

At the end of July, 1900, when the result of the ballot on the Commonwealth Referendum Bill was made known, the people of Western Australia had voted as follows :—In favour of Federation, 44,800 ; against, 19,691. Some delay had been occasioned in sending the Bill to the people, as so many influential men doubted whether the time was opportune for Western Australia to join the Commonwealth. The people in the farming and coast districts opposed the Federation on account of the loss of revenue which would follow, and that the agricultural industry of the Colony would be retarded, if not ruined, by the introduction of the produce of the other colonies free of duty, where farming was in a more advanced and established state than in Western Australia, for inter-Colonial tariff could no longer exist after federation. The Commonwealth Constitution Act, however, by clause 25, conceded to the Colony the privilege of retaining its own tariff for five years on a sliding scale, after which time to cease altogether. Though the farmers (most of whom were real West Australians) did not desire federation, the people on the goldfields on the other hand, and who were almost all new comers from the Eastern Colonies, were anxious to join the new union or Commonwealth at once, for good or for evil, on any terms, and they were so irritated at the Government's delay in submitting the matter to referendum of the people that at about the end of 1899 and beginning of 1900 they went as far as to advocate a separation of the goldfields from the coast districts, and actually sent a petition to that effect to Mr. Chamberlain. All that is now, of course, a thing of the past, but it will take some years before the feeling of antipathy which exists between the goldfields' people and those of the coast districts, to entirely cease. The

people of the goldfields look down upon the old real West Australian farmers, and these farmers in their turn feel more friendly towards new comers from England than new comers from the other Australian Colonies.

The Parliament, which had prorogued on the 16th of June (1900), was re-opened on the 15th of August, and now that the people had decided by ballot that Western Australia should enter the New Australian Commonwealth as an original State, the next step was to introduce a Federal Electorate Bill, which passed the Assembly on the 26th of September, enabling the people of the Colony to have representatives in both Houses of the Commonwealth.

Western Australia was in a flourishing condition this year, the gold output being very great, and at the end of the financial year—June 30th, 1900—the revenue was £2,875,396, whilst the expenditure amounted to only £2,615,675.

The last session of the West Australian Parliament, prior to its entry into the position of a State in the Australian Commonwealth, came to an end on the 5th of December, 1900, when the prorogation took place, attended by the usual ceremonies, an excellent speech suitable for the occasion being delivered by His Excellency Sir A. C. Onslow.

The number of measures that passed both Houses was 49. Of these, 48 were assented to, the remaining one, the Patent Act Amendment Bill, was reserved for the "signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon."

The chief measures carried during the session were the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Payment of Members Act, the Public Service Act, and the Municipal Consolidation Act.

The public debt on December 30th, 1900, amounted to £12,641,510, or £70 per head of the population.

On January 1st, 1901, the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth took place with celebrations, and from that date forward the term "Colony," by which Western Australia had hitherto been known, has given place to the term "State." The same may be said of all the Australian territories, so that a man

living in Australia at the present day almost imagines himself in the United States.

Sir John Forrest (who was honoured with a portfolio in the Commonwealth Cabinet) resigned office as Premier and Colonial Treasurer of Western Australia in February, and he was succeeded by Mr. George Throssell, who had proved himself for some years an excellent Minister for Lands.

Sir John Forrest was the first Premier of Western Australia, and during a period of over ten years—a

SIR JOHN FORREST, G.C.M.G., P.C.
FIRST PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
(At present Minister for Defence of Australian Commonwealth).

period of unsurpassed prosperity in the history of any of the Australian Colonies,—the country has been, so to speak, entirely transformed under his able administration.

As a native of the soil, and one who believed in the resources of his native land, he did not hesitate to undertake public works of the greatest magnitude that contributed to the rapid progress of Western Australia, and at the same time taking the necessary precaution not to involve the country in financial difficulties or confusion, which proved, that as a political ruler, no one ever excelled him in Australia.

In the beginning of March Sir Alexander C. Onslow left Western Australia for England, after having lived in the Colony for over twenty years—about two years as Attorney-General, and over eighteen years as Chief Justice. He also filled the honourable position of Administrator four times, and no man in Australia was more highly respected and esteemed. He was not only a model judge, a learned man, and a good public speaker, but also friendly, open-hearted, and always ready to take an interest in everything that contributed to the welfare of the community. He was perhaps the most polished gentleman in the country.

In March and April (1901) both the Federal and State Elections took place. For a short time after the result of the State Election became known, political affairs were almost at a deadlock, owing to the equal strength of the two leading political parties, and the independent attitude of the Labour and nondescript Members. Before the end of May, however, Mr. G. Throssell and his Ministry resigned, and a new Ministry was formed by Mr. George Leake. The Parliament was opened with due formality on the 28th of June by His Excellency Sir Arthur Lawley, the new Governor, who had recently arrived in the State, and about the end of July Western Australia witnessed the most important function that has ever taken place in the history of the country, viz. the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, who received a warm welcome. In November the Premier, Mr. George Leake, and his Ministry resigned, and His Excellency the Governor sent

for Mr. A. E. Morgans to form a Ministry.

Mr. Morgans is a native of Monmouthshire, and has had a great deal of experience in gold mining, both in South America and in Western Australia. He is also an excellent politician, and a most popular man, highly respected and esteemed by all classes of the community.

FARMING.

The Colony, or as it is now known, the State of Western Australia has six land divisions—Eucla, in the south-east; the South Western, in the south-west; the Western Division, further north, whilst further north still is the North West Division; Kimberly, in the north east; and the great central part or the interior is known as the Eastern Division, which division is as large, if not larger than all the other divisions put together. Of these six divisions the most important by far are the South Western and Eastern Divisions; the South Western on account of its agricultural and timber industries, and the Eastern on account of its famed auriferous resources. Outside these two divisions the population is very small and scattered, though not altogether without some promising future prospect. Kimberly and the north western parts of Western Australia are well adapted for cattle, sheep, and horses, and there are at present large numbers of them in these districts, as a great deal of the country contains good grazing land; but the climate is hot. But that part of the State known as Eucla, which is situated in the south-east, along the coast known as the "Great Australian Bight," the land is very poor, perhaps the poorest in Australia. The South Western Division of the territory of Western Australia is situated within the most desirable latitudes, and covers that part of the country which is most suitable for European settlement. A good deal of land has lately been taken up for farming, although not nearly as much as one might have expected in proportion to the population. Naturally, those who go in for farming choose this part of the country to settle in, as it has a good and regular rainfall,

as well as reasonable facilities of transport, the railway system being comparatively very complete, which enables the farmer to send his produce to Perth, Fremantle, and the large and flourishing towns on the goldfields, to be sold at a profitable price. This part of the State is capable of supporting a large population, and though the soil is not everywhere of the best quality, it is productive when well prepared. Almost everywhere in this portion of Western Australia, there is an abundance of land available for selection, and a farm of 160 acres is granted free by the Government, but the country is very heavily covered with big trees, difficult and expensive to clear. Energy, perseverance, and hard work, however, can do wonders, especially when a man is conscious that by possessing a farm of his own he is an independent freeholder and his own master, and that every hard day's work contributes something towards making a comfortable home for himself and family. Undoubtedly, there is nothing more pleasant than a life in a rural district, however lonesome that life may be, and there are more genuine people in the country than in towns. A farmer is free from the temptations and vices of city life, and every day sees something that he can admire in the beauties of nature.

Unfortunately, the people of Australia, as a rule, are too fond of the excitement and gaiety of the towns, and they regard a farmer's life as dull and monotonous, without any charms or pleasures. It is surprising, that out of the thousands who land annually in Western Australia, very few of them settle on the land. They either try to find employment in Perth or Fremantle, or proceed by train eastward to the large towns of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Boulder City, or some other town on the goldfields, and should they fail to secure employment in one of these towns, they will linger and wander about from town to town, even if they have to suffer from the want of food and the necessaries of life, rather than settle or work in a rural district, whilst there is plenty of good land available, granted by the Government on most generous terms. Not only does a settler receive a farm free of payment, but he is even assisted,

under certain conditions, with money to clear the timber from the land by means of an Agricultural Bank, established by the Government for that purpose. I doubt whether in any part of the world settlers enjoy more favourable conditions than in Western Australia; and yet the farming population is very small in proportion to that of the towns, and the importation of foodstuffs into the Colony is something enormous; about £1,000,000 in value annually.

Western Australia is at least eight times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, and still, strange to say, about one-half of the whole population of this vast territory is centred in two or three of its principal towns, If we take Perth and its port, Fremantle, together with the large town of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, on the goldfields, we have at least a population of 100,000, or more than half of the entire population of the country, centred in two places; and should we add to this 100,000, the population of the smaller towns, it would leave an extremely small proportion settled on the soil. In the other Australian Colonies things are very much the same.

Until a few years ago about 44 per cent. of the people of Victoria lived in their metropolis—Melbourne, and at the present day nearly half of the people of the vast State of South Autralia live in Adelaide, the capital.

The following shows the proportion in each chief city of Australia, compared with that of the whole Colony, from 1871 to 1899, according to reliable information.

	1871.	1881.	1891.	1899.
Sydney	27·34	29·93	33·86	32·31
Melbourne ...	28·27	32·81	43·05	41·07
Brisbane	12·51	14·57	23·79	23·00
Adelaide	23·03	37·11	41·59	40·38
Perth	20·68	19·60	16·97	22·81

The growth of these cities, out of all reasonable proportion to that of the rural districts, is most absurd and

unfortunate, and has no parallel in any other part of the world.

It is true that in the United States there are very large cities at the present day, but there is a corresponding large population in the country districts. If we go back about a hundred and ten years in the history of that country, when the population was about 4,000,000 (something like the present population of Australia), the chief towns were very small indeed, and even New York had only about 40,000 inhabitants.

Perhaps some people are ready to contend that the remarkable growth of the chief cities of Australia is due to the discovery and development of its gold resources, but this would hardly be a correct view of the matter, for if we take the case of South Australia for instance, which depends almost entirely on the agricultural industry, the large population of Adelaide, without a corresponding large population in the country, is very marked; and by tracing the history of Victoria we find that about 52 years ago, previous to the discovery of gold in that country, the proportion per cent. that lived in Melbourne was quite as much then as now.

It is evident that hitherto the development of agriculture in Western Australia has hardly answered to the anticipation of the Government, who made excellent land-laws. Whilst regretting the abnormal aggression of the people into the big towns—an unfortunate element in the progress of a new country—it is an encouraging sign that the number of people who settle on the land is increasing. This is perhaps due to the energy of the Hon. G. Throssell, who until recently was Minister for Lands, and for a short time Premier of the State. Mr. Throssell, during his administration of the Land Department, spared no pains in urging forward the claims of the agricultural industry, and in making settlement on the land as tempting as possible.

According to the latest report of the Under-Secretary for Lands, which was presented to Parliament about the end of August last, a marked progress is shown, but not so marked as it should be. "During the year the land disposed of on conditional purchase, which carries

with it the compulsory obligation to carry out improvements, amounted to 309,804 acres, as against 229,882 acres for the preceding twelve months.

It has been calculated that the country within the southern agricultural rainfall belt in Western Australia, contains about fifteen millions of acres. How far this calculation is correct I am not able to say, as so many different opinions prevail as to how much of the country is covered with fertile soil, but it is evident that up to the present only a very insignificant portion has been fully utilised. For a long time, in common with others, I was under the impression that the soil in the other Australian Colonies was far superior to that of the West, but recent travels through South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania has convinced me that there is as good land in Western Australia as in any of the other parts of the island-continent, and at the present day, should it fall to my lot to settle in Australia as a farmer, I would prefer the West, which has by far the best climate, the best market, and a week's voyage nearer Europe than the other Australian States.

Western Australia is not a great wheat country, and the yield per acre (about twelve bushels) is small compared with other countries, but the land is excellent for fruit growing. The disadvantages of farming undoubtedly are that the land is so heavily covered with trees, and the difficulty of obtaining labour. The trees are, as a rule, large, very hard to cut down, and quite as difficult to burn; and the farmers find it almost impossible to obtain labourers to help them in clearing the land. This difficulty is so much felt, that many a landowner who has spent a large sum of money in developing his estate, has to leave large portions of it to lie idle, on account of the difficulty of obtaining labour.

It is true that hundreds of men land in the Colony continually, but almost without exception they either seek employment in the towns, goldfields, or railways, without any intention or desire to work on a farm. Of course, no one can blame them, so long as they are able to obtain higher wages by working in the gold mines than what farmers could ever hope to be able to give

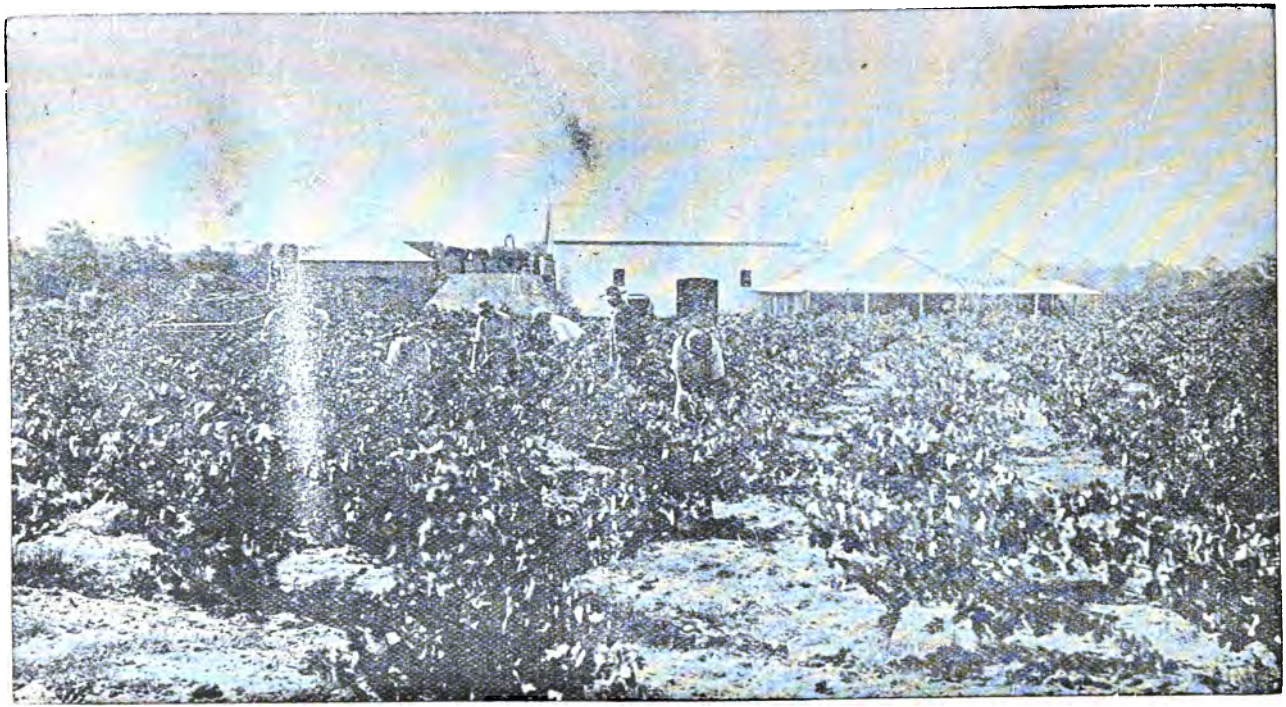
them, especially for working only eight hours a day. Farm labourers could, no doubt, be obtained from some parts of Europe, but the gold miners, who practically rule the country at present, look with contempt on any attempt to introduce foreigners. Indeed, this spirit of hostility to all aliens is so much on the increase throughout Australia, that sensible men are afraid that it will ultimately lead to serious complications.

If there is anything that will prevent Australia becoming a great and powerful nation, with a healthy and high moral standard, it is *centralisation,* brought about probably by an excessive and mad love for the pleasures and amusements of town life, which is so characteristic of the people of Australia; but the same voice which spake of old, "Go forward, go in and possess the land," bids them to cling less to the Towers of Babel which they are building, and settle on the good land which God has given them.

In speaking thus, I do not by any means discourage the development of the gold resources which has brought so much prosperity to the country, but gold, however plentiful at present, will not last for ever, so that it is evident that the wealth of the Colony must ultimately rest on the natural resources of the soil.

It is not only in Western Australia that farm life is becoming unpopular, I am afraid England is also the same. It seems that the tendency to prefer city life to that of the rural districts, has become a marked characteristic of the British race in the present age, both at home and in Australia. Now, this is a very bad sign, for those who have studied the rise and fall of nations tell us that this tendency in the old times led to the fall of the Roman Empire, and unless some means will be found to retard the progress of centralisation amongst our own race, it may ultimately lead to serious consequences. The war in South Africa should convince us that we are not to-day what our grandfathers were about sixty or seventy years ago, when the greater proportion of the people were brought up in rural districts, and not in large towns as at present.

"Whatever may be the political advantages of a very



A WEST AUSTRALIAN VINEYARD.

populous capital," says one great writer, "and I believe they are of a very disputable nature, the moral and physical evils of it are evidently numerous, and destructive of the human race. This observation is indeed true of *all cities in which too great a proportion of the people is assembled,"* and in speaking of the people of London, compared with those of the country districts of England, the same writer remarks—"Weakness of body and weakness of understanding are often found to characterise the inhabitants of the Capital. Compare the limbs of the volunteer soldiers in the Metropolis with those of the rustic militia or regulars; compare the conduct and understanding of him who was born within the sound of bow-bells with those of the hardy native of Yorkshire or Scotland. Compare the willow with the oak."

I do not hesitate in saying that the growing evil of centralisation is at the root of the scarcity of labour in England, as well as in Australia.

Mr. Rider Haggard recently, in investigating the condition of agriculture in England, says that the great complaint everywhere was the scarcity of labour, and a land agent said "not five per cent. of the boys who annually leave our National Schools remain on the land, and this residuum is of the lowest mental calibre." The present race of stalwart labourers is fast going out, and no prospect of replacing them exists. It is a serious problem for the country, and one that is persistently neglected."

Under the present circumstances the only way to make up for the scarcity of labourers is by reducing the size of the farms, and making them small enough to enable a farmer himself and his family to do all the necessary work without the aid of outside labour. A good many people in Western Australia are under the false impression that, in order to make a comfortable living, a man should have a large farm of about 500 or 1,000 acres. This may be true so far as pastoral pursuits are concerned, but as for farming in the ordinary sense, the free homestead of 160 acres which the Government offers would be sufficiently large to support a family, and a much smaller allotment would be sufficient

for those who go in for fruit-growing, for which the country is so well adapted. There are at present over 4,000 people engaged in the horticulture and vinticulture industry, which is very promising.

Those who are engaged in the pastoral industry do not suffer so much from the scarcity of labour, especially in the northern parts of Western Australia, as the Aborigines make excellent shepherds, and native labour, of course, means cheap labour. When we consider the advantages of the country from a pastoral point of view, it is surprising that such a large number of live stock is imported from the other Australian States. Of course, the large population on the goldfields offers a ready market.

The number of live stock in Western Australia at the end of each of the following three years, was as follows:—

Year.	Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.	Camels.	Pigs.	Goats.	Mules & donkeys.
1897	244971	62227	2210742	3072	31809	2229	219
1898	296947	63664	2251548	3197	39435	5215	209
1899	297075	65918	2282306	2571	55953	5987	218

First-class bullocks are worth about £12 each wholesale. The price of horses varies considerably from £10 to £30 each. A fat sheep is worth about 18/-. Western Australia at present exports nearly £450,000 worth of wool annually.

Western Australia offers a fair field for the sons of the gentry, and others who have a capital of about £1,000, to enter the pastoral industry as squatters, but it must be admitted that the best place for this is the northern part of the State, where the climate is very hot in summer. Pastoral lands may be selec ed under the following conditions—"In the south-west division, in blocks of not less than 3,000 acres, at the annual rental of £1 per 1,000 acres, or 10/- per 1,000 acres in the north-eastern part of this division; in the western division in blocks of not less than 20,000 acres, at a rental

of 10/- per annum per 1,000 acres or part thereof; in the Eucla division in blocks of not less than 20,000 acres, at a rental of 5/- per annum per 1,000 acres; in the north-west division, in blocks of not less than 20,000 acres, at a rental of 10/- per 1,000 acres; in the eastern (the most barren) division, in blocks of not less than 20,000 acres, at 2/6 per 1,000 acres per annum for the first seven years, and 5/- per annum for the remaining years of the lease; in the Kimberly division, in blocks of not less than 50,000 acres, at a rental of 10s. per annum for each 1,000 acres or part thereof." "All pastoral leases granted under the New Act expire at the end of 1928, and no such lease gives right to the use of the soil, or of the timber on it, except such of the latter as may be required for domestic and building purposes." To the man of only limited means, the pastoral industry is entirely out of his reach.

SOCIAL LIFE.

The capital city of Western Australia is Perth, situated on the Swan River, and having at present a population of between 40,000 and 50,000, and is rapidly increasing, bidding fair to become within the next twenty years one of the greatest and most flourishing cities in Australasia. The city was founded in 1830, almost coincident with the foundation of Western Australia, and for many years it had only a very small population and an antiquated appearance, so to speak; but during the last ten years Perth has made wonderful progress, both as regards the increase of population and the improvement of its streets and buildings. It may be doubted whether any other colonial town of its size can boast of a more imposing display of buildings, and a great deal is done every day to make the city still more attractive.

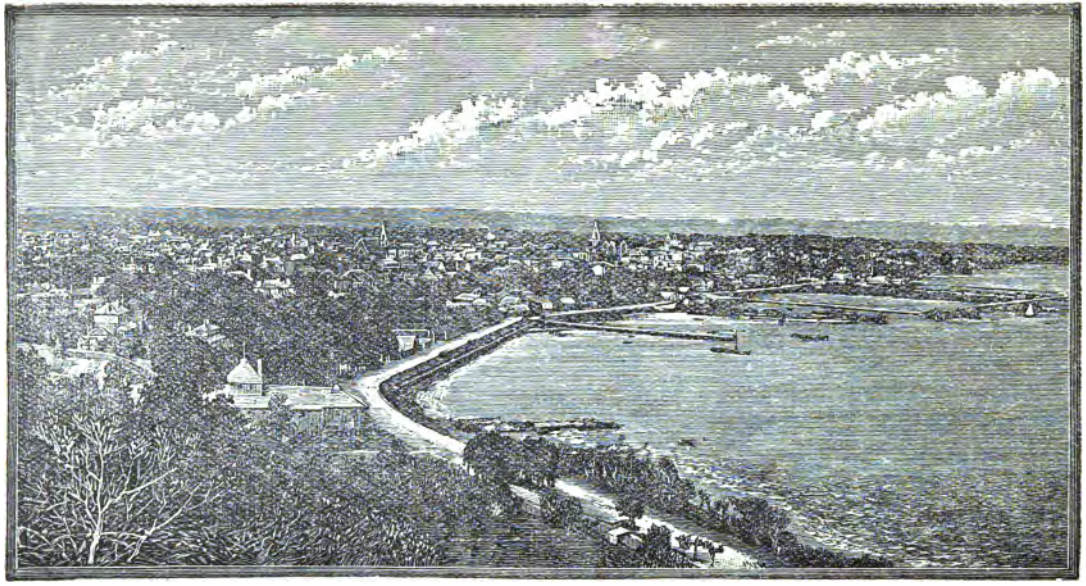
The city is very pleasantly and picturesquely situated on the banks and north side of the Swan River, which, in this particular neighbourhood, widens considerably into the form of a lake, and the town slopes gently down towards its edge.

But pleasantly situated as the city undoubtedly is, I

must confess that my first impression of it was not a very favourable one. Approaching the town as I did, by train from Albany, on a very hot morning during the hot and dry season, when the surrounding country was very much parched, the first glimpse of the outskirts was enough to make one think that Perth was nothing but a town of sand, in which a man would sink nearly to his ankles in walking about. Travelling to Perth from Albany by the Great Southern Railway, as new arrivals from England had to do till recently, people had the first view of it under a very great disadvantage. Adding to this the wearisome effects of a night's railway journey, incurring additional expense after a long voyage, I hope the people of Albany will forgive me saying that it is fortunate for Perth and Western Australia in general that new arrivals from the Old Country land at their port no more.

In order to get a favourable view of Perth, visitors landing at the Port of Fremantle should make the journey to the Capital by boat up the river, and not by train. First impressions often last long, and no one can fail to receive a good impression of the metropolis of Western Australia, if not charmed by its picturesque appearance, by approaching it by the river on board a steamer, and getting a first glimpse of the city lifting up from the lake-like expanse of the Swan River. Perth has a more imposing appearance from the river than perhaps, most cities, as it has the advantage of having the Government House and the fashionable quarters of Adelaide and St. George's Terraces nearer the banks of the river than the other parts of the town, so that the less pretentious streets are hidden in the back-ground.

In reality the river approach shows Perth at its very best, both from the artificial and natural point of view. When I first arrived there, about four years ago, many of the streets were covered with sand, and terribly dusty when the wind was blowing, but at the present day the streets are well made, kept clean everywhere, and far less dusty than Melbourne. This is due to the energy and activity of the City Council, who are determined, it seems to me, to make the city worthy of its dignity and



A VIEW OF PERTH

importance as the metropolis of the largest Australian State, by enhancing its general attractiveness. Electric trams now run along several of its streets, and the system will soon be completed. Saint George and Adelaide Terraces are about two miles long, and very broad like most of the best thoroughfares of Australia, and boarded on each side by lilac trees. In the central part of this street are situated the Government House, the English Cathedral, the General Post Office, and many imposing buildings in the way of banks and solicitors' offices. Moir's building is a credit to the town.

The English Cathedral is a gothic structure, which was erected at a cost of £17,000.

Between the terrace and the river, almost facing the Cathedral, is the Government House (the Governor's residence), a fine strong brick building, surrounded by trees and beautiful grounds. It was built, as well as the Town Hall, which is situated on the corners of Barrack and Hay Streets, in the old days by convict labour.

Outside the public buildings, both in a westernly and easternly direction along St. George and Adelaide Terraces, are situated some fine mansions of the well-to-do and retired West Australian families. The "Terrace" is, in fact, the Belgravia of Perth, and it is the ambition of most people of any social pretensions to secure a residence there, though there are many fine private houses in other parts of the town, and the suburban towns of Claremont and Cottesloe are fast growing as fashionable quarters. As is natural, West Australian Society has its centre in Perth, where the Governor resides, and Parliament meets. In the chief town of every Colony, as a rule, there is a very agreeable and pleasant Society to be found, and this is especially true of Perth, where there is a greater freedom of intercourse than in England. Western Australia has perhaps more representatives of good old English families of aristocratic descent than any other British Colony in the world, and we can say to their credit, that whilst they have retained most of the accomplishments and refinement of their English forefathers, they are free from that

reservedness, stiffness, and formality which are too often characteristics of the higher classes in England.

In West Australia, Society is much less divided than at home, a better feeling exists between the rich and poor, and, whatever their failings, we must admit that people of all classes are, as a rule, very homely and genial, which makes social life much brighter than in England, and at the present day the Colony (or State) has a Governor who sets an excellent example, by falling into the social and democratic habits of the people. Indeed, His Excellency Sir Arthur Lawley and Lady Lawley are becoming most popular, and well liked by everybody. The political influence of a Governor is not so much now as it was in the old Crown Colony days, when he had almost unlimited power, but his social influence has greatly increased with the increase of the population and wealth of the country.

Perth Society has recently had a very great loss by the departure to England of Sir A. C. Onslow, and of Sir John Forrest to the Eastern Colonies. Sir Alexander and Lady Onslow, and Sir John and Lady Forrest were very genial, homely and hospitable, and for years had contributed so much towards making Society in the city more bright and agreeable.

The main business street of Perth is Hay Street, which runs parallel with St. George's terrace. It has some fine shops, with windows displaying the latest fashions in dress, and all kinds of other articles, and electric trams run along continually. It is a sight, especially on Saturday evenings, to see the pavements crowded with well-dressed men and women, which is a sign that prosperity shines upon the city of Perth at the present day. The drawback with this street is that it is somewhat narrow for a chief business place, as such large crowds of foot passengers make their apperance in the evenings that sometimes it is difficult to walk along. Barrack Street, which runs up from the Railway Station, and down the slope again to the river, is another great business street, almost equal to Hay Street for the display of shop windows, and the next street in importance is William Street, and that part of Wellington which

faces the Railway Station. Murray Street, a business thoroughfare in the very centre of the town, is not so alive as one might expect from the advantage of its position. It has some good buildings, and extends from the heights of Mount Eliza in the west to the Roman Catholic Cathedral in the east. This Cathedral overlooks the city from lofty grounds, and not far from it is the Public Hospital, which has been in existence for 40 years, and to which important additions have been made.

Perth has a fine railway station, but the line cuts the town in half.

The Public Library in James Street is a fine structure, erected at considerable cost, and the reading room contains about 40,000 volumes. There is also a newspaper room, filled with papers and magazines from all parts of the world. The Library is well attended with readers, especially in the evenings, who as a rule are well-dressed, a great contrast to the shabby looking persons who attend the Public Library of Melbourne, Victoria, a sign that "Australia Felix" had seen better days.

The people of Perth, as well as those of all other parts of Western Australia, are great readers, especially of newspapers; indeed, it would be difficult to find a house even in the remotest district without a daily paper. The people also take a keen interest in politics and what is going on in the world. Perth alone has three dailies, which are well conducted, and have excellent leading articles, as Australian papers generally have.

Besides the Public Library, Perth has also a Museum, an Observatory, and a Mint for the reception of gold. The Parliament Houses and the Supreme Court are far from being a credit to the city, but I understand that the Government intend soon to erect new buildings, more worthy of the present state of Western Australia. Parliament at present meets in a building adjoining the Town Hall, and an old building, once a commisariat store, has to serve as the Supreme Court. A gentleman recently described this state of things as a "disgrace to a civilised community."

In the business parts of the city grand buildings of several stories are numerous, but most of the private houses, with the exception of the fine buildings of the well-to-do families, are cottages of one story only, mostly built of brick, with a few in the outskirts made of wood. The houses, as a rule, have four or five rooms, are well built, and some of them nicely ornamented with imposing parapets in the front, but the galvanized iron covering of the roof and verandah disfigures the beauty of the buildings. Some people at the present day, but not many, are wise enough to avoid this iron roof by substituting shingles made of jarrah wood, and a roof of this kind has the appearance of slate at a distance. The houses mostly have small flower gardens in the front, enclosed with neat palings. The number of buildings in Perth in 1900 was 6,228, and they are rapidly increasing. Capital value of city properties, £3,699,710; annual value, £286,067.

The city was incorporated in 1871, and the following is a list of its mayors from that time to the present. 1871-3, George Glyde; 1874, G. Randell; 1875-7, Geo. Shenton; 1878-9, S. H. Parker; September, 1880, G. Shenton; 1881-4, George Shenton; 1884-5, G. Randell; 1885-8, G. Shenton; 1888-91, Dr. E. Scott; 1891-2, Edward Keene and S. H. Parker; 1893-5, A. Forrest; 1896-7, H. J. Saunders; 1898-1900, A. Forrest; 1900-1, W. G. Brookman, S. H. Parker, W. T. Loton.

A large number of the greengrocers and laundry-men of the town are Chinese, and Wang Goon, Ling Ting, Cling & Co. are seen painted in big letters over the windows and doors of many of the business buildings. The Chinaman is very industrious and honest, though rather given to gambling. There are also a few natives of India keeping small shops, more especially of fancy articles, and they are considered excellent tailors. The persecution and oppression which is carried on against these people does not reflect much credit on the white people of Australia, for nothing could be more inconsistent with the democratic principles which they profess and boast of, not to mention the words of St. Paul, who saith that God "hath made of one blood all nations of

men for to dwell on all the face of the earth."

Perth has several important suburbs, such as Leederville, Subiaco, Claremont, Cottesloe, Victoria Park and South Perth. South Perth is not situated on the same side of the river as Perth itself, but faces it from the opposite side of the water. The Zoological Gardens are situated in this charming spot, and the place is very attractive as a recreation resort, and pleasure trips to it are frequent, small steamers maintaining a regular service with Perth. Another great pleasure resort of the people of Perth is the Park, a most beautiful ground of about 1,000 acres, where trees and flora have been preserved, and many carriage drives giving charming vistas of the river Swan. There are also many smaller parks or public gardens or grounds in different parts of the town, the prettiest of which undoubtedly is the one opposite the General Post Office, at the corner of Government House; but unfortunately it is too much frequented by loafers. There are also several recreation reserves, so that it cannot be said that Perth is behind other Australian cities for recreation and amusement.

The town is a hot-bed of picnics, pleasure trips down the river and railway excursions into the floral districts for the abundance of wild flowers, make such things very pleasant.

All kinds of entertainments are very frequent, especially balls and concerts, not only in Perth, but all over Western Australia, the fondness of the people throughout the Colony for music, like Wales, being very marked, and if anything will draw them together, good music will. It was cultivated even in the early days of the Colony. It seems to me, though, that there is but very little, if any, taste for poetry, for it is hardly read, much less composed. I do not know of any poet in Western Australia, and should there be one, I am afraid that his works would not be much patronised. The only piece of poetry composed in Western Australia, that I ever came upon, was a song composed by one Mr. Moor in the early days of the Colony (about 1831), and which was sung by him at Governor Stirling's first ball. The poet, in describing the occasion, says—"The brig had

just arrived, bringing the first Indian invalid to our shores, Quartermaster-General Hansom, and also Lord Beauclerk and Captain Parker, R.N., and in the evening at the Governor's house we had 180 ladies and gentlemen. The ball was kept up with the greatest spirit till 6 o'clock in the morning, and the dancing almost without interval—centre-dances, quadrilles, Spanish dances, and gallopads. I never before witnessed such gaiety at a ball, nor ever before danced so much in one night. Four rooms and an arcade were all filled, and connected with the verandah, and a super-tent was fitted up, decorated, and festooned with naval flags, and in this we had supper, an elegant and an abundant one. The gentlemen from India were astonished."

Western Australia for Me.

Air—"Ballinamona."

"From the old western world we have come to explore
The wilds of this Western Australian shore;
In search of a country we've ventured to roam,
And now that we've found it let's make it our home.
And what though the Colony's new, sirs,
And inhabitants yet may be few, sirs,
We see them increasing here too, sirs,
So Western Australia for me.

With care and experience I'm sure 'twill be found
Two crops in the year we may get from the ground;
There's good wood and good water, good flesh and good fish,
Good soil and good clime, and what more could you wish.
Then let every one earnestly strive, sirs,
Do his best, be alert and alive, sirs,
We'll soon see our Colony thrive, sirs,
So Western Australia for me.

No lions or tigers we here dread to meet,
Our innocent quadrupeds hop on two feet;
No tithes and no taxes we now have to pay,
And our *geese* are all *swans* as some witty folks say.
Then we live without trouble or stealth, sirs,

Our currency's all sterling wealth, sirs,
So here's to our Governor's health, sirs,
And Western Australia for me."

If the above ball was the first in Western Australia, it was by no means the last. Indeed, at the present day, balls are far too frequent, especially among the lower classes, and I am afraid that some churches, at least the Jews and Roman Catholics, patronize them in order to raise church funds. The Australians will dance all night, even when they know that they have to work hard the next day.

Unfortunately, horse-racing is also by far too prevalent, not only in the neighbourhood of Perth, but almost in every other district, and has a tendency of degenerating the community. The Government is very much to be blamed for making reserves for such a purpose, for horse-racing naturally leads to betting and gambling, and men are tempted to use their superior knowledge of a horse to their neighbour's detriment. The opinion of such a great man as the late Kingsley is worthy of notice, "I say the devil is the father of it; even before I took holy orders, before I thought seriously at all, I found myself forced to turn my back on race-courses." A love of amusement and enjoyment is a special characteristic of the Australians, and the quiet life of many of the people in England would be regarded by them as dull and miserable. Indeed, an Australian life seems to be much more like French than English in many respects. This is perhaps partly due to the presence of a strong Irish element, whose love of merrymaking is known to everybody, and partly due to the climatic conditions of the country, which leads people to pass so much more of their time in the open air than in colder countries. No sensible man would altogether condemn harmless amusement, but constant repetition makes pleasures tasteless, if not tiresome, till people by degrees, in order to find new fields of enjoyment, are led on to indulge in those sports which pave the way to vice.

Sunday in Western Australia at the present day has become almost continental, especially on the goldfields,

where the day which has been set apart for rest and worship, is desecrated by football and cricket. A short time ago, while spending a few months in a mining town on the Murchison, I noticed that regularly on Sunday afternoons the citizens, both men and women, were in the habit of gathering together in large crowds in the football and cricket grounds, some going on foot, others on their bicycles, and many driving in their carriages, in such large numbers as almost to convince one that the whole town had come there, whilst the number of those who attended divine service in the evening was very small indeed. Even the people of Perth, who are hundreds of miles away from the goldfields, are not free from desecrating the Lord's Day, for Sunday picnics and excursions are far too common, and there is a growing tendency to make it still more of a day of amusement.

His Lordship the Bishop of Perth (Dr. Riley), in an excellent opening address at the Anglican Synod, remarked—"We cannot but regret the growing tendency to have on Sunday what are called rational Sunday concerts, and especially that the theatres should be permitted to be opened. We all of us believe that the day of rest has the divine sanction, and I am certain that you all regret with me the opening of the theatres for performances on that day."

MORALS OF THE COLONY.

Taking a general view of the state of things throughout Western Australia, no one is ready to assert that the moral and religious standard of the country is very high at the present day. It is evident that things were otherwise once, for the pioneers of West Australia were far superior in this respect to those of any other Australian Colony. They were very respectable families, peaceable, and of a higher moral standard than the people of the Colonies as a rule, and free from the vices which are so common in the Colony at the present day. I found from reading an old authority on the subject that fifty years ago, when the population numbered about 8,000 souls, such was the happy state of society

that there was not a single lawyer in the Colony, and the only one who attempted the profession was obliged to quit the country for Tasmania, to save himself from starvation. At the present day, however, lawyers are as numerous as mushrooms. This pre-eminent social and moral state of the Colony did not last, for in 1850 convicts were introduced, gentlemen who were by no means likely to improve things in this respect, but the crimes and vices introduced by these malefactors were nothing to compare with the degenerating elements introduced by the "all sorts and conditions of men," who have been attracted into the country since the beginning of the development of the goldfields. To the credit of the real West Australians, it is only fair to say that from the Blue Books, which I have carefully examined, it is evident that even to this day serious offences are much smaller among West Australians born (which proves their superior reputation still), than among those who have landed in the State during the last ten years, either from England or from the eastern Australian States. At the same time, we must admit that there are many among the new comers who are men of good moral and religious principles, and are a blessing to the community, who are disgusted and annoyed at the low moral standard of public opinion which prevails in the mining districts.

Goldmining has attracted into the State a large number of criminals and others bohemian in character, and even many who were well brought up, and led a religious and blameless life in the other Australian Colonies or in England, have fallen away after landing in the Golden West, partly through becoming associated with "new chums," whose example and influence are not likely to guide them in the right way, and we all know that such is the corrupt nature of man, that "if vice and virtue are associated, there is little hope of the vicious person becoming virtuous, but almost a certainty that the virtuous person will become vicious." How true, then, are the words of the Apostle when he says, "Evil communication corrupt good manners." Many who come to the mines leave behind them their families,

parents, friends, and old associations in other places, and enter upon a new theatre of action where they are not known, and as they are far from those who had hitherto exercised a salutary and restraining influence over them, they very soon go astray. We must also remember that such are the conditions of life in many of the new mining communities, especially at first, when a district is nothing but bush till houses are put up, that miners have often to live in a small uncomfortable tent, where they regard the long hours as passing very dull and miserable, and thus, deprived of the comforts of a proper dwelling, they naturally yield to the evil influences of others with whom they are associated, and almost unconsciously fall into the habit of gambling and drinking without any intention of becoming habitual drunkards or gamblers, but simply to make the hours pass by more pleasantly. For men who live in larger townships, where there are proper houses and all the comforts of civilization, with full means of harmless recreation, there is no excuse.

RELIGION.

The Bishop of Perth, who is a very hard-working Bishop, and over 50 Clergymen and lay readers, full of zeal, earnestness and activity, as well as Nonconformist Ministers, are doing their very best to rouse the people of Western Australia from their spiritual indifference, but every true Christian must confess that the lines of the Church have not fallen into pleasant places in that country; but we may indeed hope, trust, and pray that the good seed which is being sown may bear fruit in its thousand-fold, if not to-day, at some future time. Most of the religious bodies which exist in England are represented in Western Australia.

First and foremost is the Anglican Church, which was the pioneer church of the Colony. The first Clergyman was the Rev. J. B. Wittenoom, who arrived with the early settlers in 1829. The Colony was formed into a diocese in 1856. The present Bishop is the Right Rev. C. O. L. Riley, D.D., consecrated to be Lord Bishop of

Perth in 1894. The parishes are over 50 in number, and some of them are much larger than a whole diocese in England. A Church Synod was established in 1872, of which the Bishop is President. Each Clergyman is a member, and there are two lay members for every Clergyman. As regards patronage, the appointment of the Clergy lies with the Bishop as a rule, but in the case of some parishes the appointment is vested in a board of nominators.

The Church of England has an excellent native Mission, and also Orphanages for both boys and girls. There is in Perth a Theological College for the training of young men for holy orders. The Principal, the Rev. C. E. C. Lefroy, is a most earnest Clergyman.

The Roman Catholics are numerous, and their church is divided into two dioceses, Perth and Geralton. The Ministers number about 40. The Roman Catholic Mission for the Aborigines at New Morcia, founded by the late Spanish Bishop Salvado, who died recently at Rome, deserves great praise. About 150 Aborigines are lodged, clothed, and educated.

The Wesleyans are also numerous and very energetic, their Ministers and Home Missionaries numbering about 40. The Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Salvation Army are represented in the State, but as yet are not very numerous. The Ministers of all denominations are very zealous in their good work, but they all feel the difficulty of raising church funds in a country where there are no endowments, the people not very religiously inclined, and the moral standard of public opinion rather low.

THE COLLIEFIELDS.

As to the spiritual condition of the mining districts of Western Australia, I am able to speak from experience, as I had the honour of being the pioneer christian worker in a coal mining district known as Colliefields, situated about 126 miles south-east from Perth. I also spent some time in Perth, and on the goldfields.

Perhaps a few words about my experiences in the

Colliefields will prove of interest to some of my readers in England, in order to give them some idea of West Australian bush life. The first nine months of my life in the State I spent in Perth, where I received much kindness and warm sympathy from many of its leading citizens, especially Sir Alexander and Lady Onslow, and Sir John and Lady Forrest, at the end of which time I proceeded to Colliefields under the direction of the Bishop. The distance by train to Colliefields is about 126 miles, and the first part of the journey is from Perth to Brunswick Junction, about 100 miles. During this part of the railway journey the traveller passes through some very beautiful and rich country, especially around Harvey and Brunswick, but from Brunswick Junction to Colliefields, a distance of 25 miles, travelling eastward now and not southward as before, the country differs entirely. The traveller soon leaves behind the rich agricultural areas, and passes slowly at the rate of about ten miles an hour through a country with a soil of a very inferior quality, but the trip is by no means uninteresting, as the romantic scenery of the Darling Range, with its hills and ravines, and the huge forests of jarrah trees through which the train passes, is very striking if not attractive. About halfway between Brunswick and Colliefields, there is a small station called Lunenburg, near which are the Worsley timber mills, where a large number of men find employment in the timber industry. About four miles before reaching the town of Collie, the train passes through the ruins of an abandoned mine, known as West Collie, where the coal had proved too inferior for its development. The Company of this abandoned mine did a great deal of harm to the Collie by selling this inferior coal, which prejudiced the minds of the people of Western Australia against the coal. At present the Collie coal is most popular, and is in great demand, and there are several Companies engaged in developing the industry.

The district was, until a few years ago, entirely uninhabited by human beings, and an almost untrodden ground, but to-day, the development of the coal resources has brought about such a wonderful change

that it reads like a chapter of romance. Probably no other mining district in the country improved so rapidly in its material prospects, but it grieved me to find so large a proportion of the people given to such religious indifference. The first mine to prove a success was the Wallsend mine, which was leased from the Government by the late Mr. H. M. Deaken for seven years, with a right of renewal, and great praise is due to him and Mr. Evans, the manager, for their energy and enterprising spirit, which soon resulted in a rapid and successful development of the coal resources of the district. The Government shaft, extending about 1,000 feet, proved a great help to them to secure a good start. The success of the Wallsend mine soon induced others to take up leases, and there are at present, besides the mine I have mentioned, the Proprietary mine, which is the richest at present, West Collie Coal Company, Collie Boulder, and the Collie Cardiff leases which are to be developed soon. The output of coal during the years 1899–1900 amounted to about 200,000 tons, and it is rapidly increasing. The great drawback is the want of sufficient railway trucks. There is a project on foot at present to construct a new railway, to connect Colliefields with the eastern goldfields in a direct line, in order to secure a better market for the coal, and the people of the district have elected Mr. J. Ewing to Parliament, to advocate the undertaking.

The coal area is extensive, and the seams as a rule very thick, a bore which was put down last year piercing one seam 17 feet in thickness. Coal is known to exist in other parts of Western Australia also, but has not yet been developea.

The Colliefields at present has a population of about 1,500 inhabitants. The township, which is rather scattered, has broad streets and some fine buildings, especially hotels, which are more magnificent in appearance than those of a large city of 20,000 inhabitants. These grand hotels (eight or nine in number) must have cost about £20,000, whilst the three churches of different denominations had to be built for a sum hardly amounting to £500 altogether, and it was a hard

struggle even to collect that sum. Indeed, the grand appearance of the public houses, compared with the humble looking wooden places of worship, present a most deplorable contrast, and nowhere else in Australia are drunkenness and gambling more prevalent.

When I first arrived in the district the population was only about 150 souls, between men, women and children. Although there was a good railway station, with goods shed, and a post office (all of wood), yet, with the exception of two public houses and two or three stores, there were very few houses, and most of the people lived in small unpretentious wooden huts, canvas places, and tents. Indeed, all the single men, and others who had come to the place without their families, camped in small tents, and some families had to do this as well. In one particular spot, opposite the coal mine, there was quite a small township of tents, which made life very much like gipsy life in England. Where there are now good roads and fine buildings, was virgin bush in those days, covered with jarrah trees. Such was the primitive condition of the few dwellings, that I was very glad to secure a small one-room hut, made of rough jarrah timber, without any floor but the ground of sand and stones, and the ants were so numerous that they were climbing up the table. On one side of the building there were big holes under the weather boards, large enough for wild cats, foxes, wallabies, and kangaroos to force their way into the house, and this small hut, with few improvements, had to serve as parsonage for two years. There was neither road nor path leading up to the house, and as it was situated among big trees, some of which had fallen, it was very difficult to go about, and in coming home after dark it was necessary to be very careful to avoid accidents. Most of my neighbours were men of drunken habits, and often were very rowdy late at night, for the public house was near at hand. One evening, whilst I was out, one or two of these men broke into my cabin and stole several articles, and in gratitude to me for not punishing them for their offence, they signed the pledge, but such was their craving for drink that they soon violated the solemn

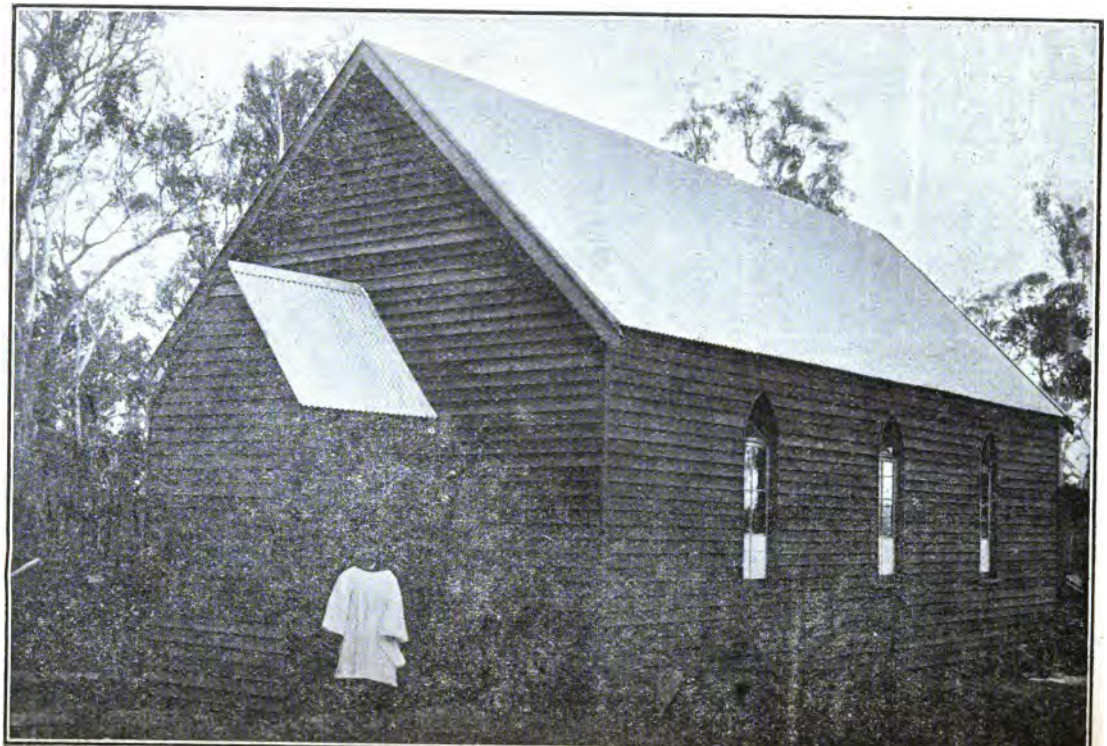
obligation which they had taken. I am glad to say that the Good Templars' Lodge, which was soon after this established in the neighbourhood, and of which I had the privilege of being Chaplain, succeeded in reclaiming many an habitual drunkard.

When I arrived in the district first, there was only one mine working, which had just started, employing only a few men, and the prospects were not too glowing, for many were unable to find work. By degrees, however, as the mine was developed, more colliers were employed, till everybody found something to do, at a good wage, about 10/- a day. Single men, by living a steady life, could have saved about £100 a year, as their board only cost them 18/- a week, and many lived cheaper by cooking their own meals, but such was the temptation for drink that very few of them saved anything. Generally on Sunday afternoons, large crowds would gather together at a particular spot amongst the trees, to play at the gambling game known as "pitch and toss." In some respects they were not bad fellows, for they never quarrelled or used violence towards one another as men do in England very often under such circumstances, but the drinking and gambling habits were causing their ruin.

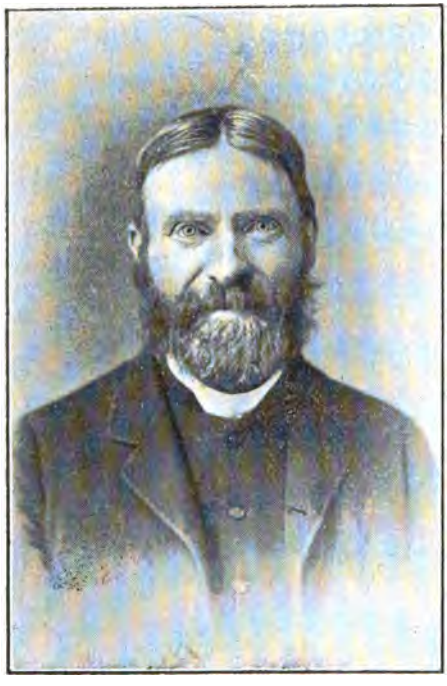
Speaking of church matters, the first Sunday after my arrival in the district, owing to the want of any other building for that purpose, I had to conduct Divine Service in the goods shed at the railway station, a truck serving as a reading desk and pulpit. About forty came together, and the singing was very good, but as I read the Church Service almost all the congregation were unable to follow, as it seems that most of them had been brought up with the Nonconformists, and the few who professed to be Church people had neglected the means of grace for so many years. A strong wind rushed through the partly open building and put out all the lights, so I had to preach in the dark, but the people listened very attentively. It happened to be a few days after Epiphany, and I addressed them from St. Matth. iii. 1, and knowing the backwardness of so many in Western Australia to attend divine worship, from my experience in Perth, I took occasion, from the words of

the text, to teach them a lesson from the noble example of the "wise men," who undertook such a long and perilous journey in order to worship the "new-born King." Besides conducting services on Sundays and visiting the people on week-days at the Colliefields, it also fell to my duty to hold services at the timber mills within my district, one being 12 miles, and another 18 miles from the Collie township. I used to walk almost every Sunday to the nearest of these mills, and after conducting service there walked back again to the Colliefields to hold evening service. When I first preached at Worsley mills, only four or five came to the service, which was not very encouraging when one had walked such a long Sabbath journey through the mid-summer heat. The men who worked at this timber mill were hard-working people, and by no means bad characters in the strict sense of the word, but most of them had but very little or no religion, and their chief amusement was to gather together in the evenings, especially Saturday evenings, to a ball, when a large room would be decorated for the occasion, and dancing and music would often continue till Sunday morning, so that on Sunday many would be lying down exhausted after the jollity and merry-making of the previous night. I continued to hold services at this mill, and for a long time the congregation was very small—about nine or ten—but by degrees the number increased to about forty, and the singing was something excellent. I was very fortunate at this mill to come across a superior and intelligent man (Mr. Roesner by name), who proved a great help to me, especially as an organist. To the other timber mill, which was further away, I only went occasionally. The people there were not many in number, but showed me much kindness and hospitality, especially one Mr. Pyvis and a few others, who were good christian people.

My headquarters was not at these timber mills, but at Colliefields, which had a larger and an increasing population, but I had to contend with greater difficulties here than at the mills. Owing to the want of a proper room to hold services, I had to continue them for some



ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, COLLIEFIELDS.



YOURS VERY SINCERELY,

JONATHAN CEREDIG DAVIES.

time in the booking room of the railway station. After struggling for some time I managed to build a Church, which I named St. David's, and which was opened by the Bishop. I succeeded also in paying for the building through the generous assistance of friends, both in Western Australia and England, and also the proceeds of local concerts. As to my stipend, I had to depend entirely on the small Sunday collections, as there were no endowments. What I felt very discouraging in the Colliefields was the want of real good christian men, to help and sympathise with me, and lead others to a better life by their example and piety. Such was the lack of interest in spiritual things, that it was impossible at times to depend on a single one to conduct the Sunday School, though a large number of children came together. With occasional assistance, I managed to conduct a regular evening service in this Church, whilst during the other part of the day I would be at the timber mills. The nearest fully ordained Clergyman was about 40 miles away, but he only visted my district about once in three months, as he had a very large field of labour in another part of the country. The Bishop was also good enough to come twice ; once to open the church, and on another occasion in order to try to awaken the large number of people who were spiritually dead, when his lordship preached most powerful sermons.

My Sabbath journeys as a rule were long, especially as I had to perform them on foot. I had a walk of over 22 miles, besides conducting two or three services during the day. In my Sunday journeys I travelled through a lonely country where not a single human habitation was to be seen—nothing but the immense and monotonous jarrah forest hiding the view everywhere,—and a perfect silence reigned over the whole country, for the sweet warbling of birds is seldom heard in Australia, even in summer. The kangaroos and wallabies were running about, and at certain times of the year the country was covered with beautiful wild flowers to brighten one's path, which made me at times almost fancy myself passing through a fairy land. No other country in the world can claim such a wealth of

floral beauty as Western Australia, and it is surprising how they grow, even in most barren and dry soil as well as in good soil. Different kinds of lovely "everlasting" flowers are plentiful in the Colony, which enables the poorest in the land to decorate their dwellings and tables all the year round, as these flowers, after gathering them, do not die. I took a great deal of delight in these lonesome journeys from the consciousness that I was working for Christ.

On one occasion I had an adventure which I should not like to experience again. The Rector of Bunbury had written to me about a new timber mill, situated some thirty miles from the Colliefields, which no one had visited to preach the gospel, so I decided to go there and conduct service on a week day, as all my Sundays were engaged elsewhere. Therefore, one morning I started early from home on my journey. There was neither road nor path to lead me on my way, nothing but dense forest everywhere, and I did not know even the whereabouts of the mill, the Government map of the country being useless to me as it had been published before the establishment of this new timber mill, and the wild country through which I travelled had seldom been trodden by the feet of human beings. After crossing the Collie River about two miles south of the Colliefields, I took a westernly direction and forced my way straight out through the lonely bush, with nothing in my pockets but a box of matches and some bread and butter, and fortunately the brooks which I occasionally crossed at the bottom of the ravines, though drying up before the end of summer, had an abundant supply of water at this particular time, which was spring or beginning of summer. At the first part of the journey I found the country flat, and swampy in some places, but after pushing on for some hours it began to assume a very unlevel character, when hills had to be crossed, till I began to feel tired. About one or two o'clock in the afternoon, the heat was so intense that I sat down on the banks of a river and ate the little food which I had with me, and after a short rest I renewed my journey, now in a south-westernly direction, hoping and trusting

to come upon the timber mill before dark. The country now became more and more hilly, so that the big ranges I had to climb appeared like high mountains, and they must have been about 2,000 feet above the sea level, and no sooner had I reached the top of one hill than I would be going down to the bottom of a deep ravine, and up again on the slopes of another hill, and often fallen trees and thick scrub obstructed my onward march, through which it was difficult to penetrate. Onward I hurried, however, climbing one range after another till at last I was overtaken by darkness. Tired, exhausted, and feeling very sick, I drank some water from a brook, for I had no food left, and there was no sign of human habitation to be seen anywhere. I made a fire and laid down to rest on the bare ground, and felt like Elias of old, almost ready to die. I thought of my horrible dream of the previous night, when I had dreamt that I was walking along a road and was suddenly obstructed by a bold and savage man, who confronted me with a long dagger in his hand. I doubted whether I should be able to walk any further the next day, but I was comforted by the fact that should death overtake me in this dreary and lonely bush, I would be dying in the Lord's service. Instead of lying down all night on the bare ground, which was damp after recent rains, I gathered together some boughs and leaves and spread my mackintosh, which fortunately I had carried with me, over them. I kept up a fire all night, feeling too ill to sleep, and not at all enjoying the presence of the snakes. The kangaroos, wallabies and other animals, which ran about continually, were harmless, and I felt thankful that in the bush of Australia I was safe from lions, tigers, and other rapacious beasts. The night passed very slowly, and about two o'clock in the morning the wind rose to almost a hurricane, and continued for hours to shake the forest, to my peril, for in Western Australia the trees, not having their roots very deep in the ground, often fall before the force of the strong winds, and many a man has lost his life through this. I was very glad when at last daylight appeared, which enabled me to pursue my journey by following the down-

ward course of a small river, for I had given up the idea of finding the timber mill, feeling too weak to climb any more hills. I thought that by following this brook I should come, sooner or later, into some valley inhabited by farmers. I felt so stiff and exhausted that I could only walk very slowly, and I had not the least idea before that there was such an impenetrable, rough, and steep country in any part of Western Australia. It was with much difficulty that I managed to pursue my way along this small river, as the hills on both sides sloped right down into it in many places so steep that I could hardly keep from falling into the water. In other places huge stones obstructed my path, but I pushed on for some hours until at last I was gladdened by the sight of a farm house in the distance, situated in a large valley with fine green fields, where horses and cattle were grazing. Onward I went till I came to a large river, on the opposite side of which I could see a good road, on which I could walk without difficulty till I reached some house, but how was I cross this river being unable to swim. At last, however, I came across a very large tree which had fallen right across the river, and I managea to crawl over to the other side on this log, where I was able to follow the road. After walking along a short distance I found that, after all my trouble in crossing the river on a stump of a tree, a fine bridge was almost on the spot. By following the road I came, after a while, to a schoolroom, and saw some children playing about, and also met a man, to whom I related my unfortunate adventure. He told me that his wife was busy as she was the schoolmistress, but that he himself would make me some tea, so at his kind invitation I gladly followed him into the house, where I was glad to have a short rest as well as something to eat. As I had some distance to go before I reached a railway station, I had to leave in a short time in order to catch a train to take me home to the Colliefields. I did not feel quite so ill now, but felt so tired that I had to sit down often on the road-side. I managed, however, to reach Donnybrook Station just in time for the train. When I arrived at Brunswick Junction, where I had to

change, I found to my regret that there was no train to go any further for some hours, so I proceeded to a farm house in the neighbourhood to rest awhile, where I was received with that kindness and hospitality which is a characteristic of the West Australians, especially in the country districts, who throughout the length and breadth of the land extend the heartiest welcome to the stranger and visitor. After another railway journey of 25 miles, I reached home at the Colliefields about 12 midnight. So far had I wandered through the bush during my adventure, that my homeward journey by train was about 70 miles.

EDUCATION.

Space will not permit me, in a small book like this, to write much on this subject, but I am glad to say that Western Australia has an excellent system of education, which is free and compulsory. Government schools have been established everywhere. The teaching is secular, but about half an hour is devoted to religious teaching, and Ministers of religion are permitted to give religious instruction to the children of their denomination for half an hour during school hours. The schools are under the control of the Minister of Education, assisted by District Boards, who act as boards of advice in their respective localities. There are at present about 250 schools in the State, with about 500 teachers. The law relating to compulsory attendance is perhaps more strictly enforced than in England, every-day attendance till 14 years of age being required.

Western Australia has no University, and many of the well-to-do families send their children to the English Universities; others to the Universities of the other Australian States.

ZOOLOGY.

The principal wild animals of Western Australia are of the Kangaroo species, and far from the towns and settled districts they are numerous. There are many different kinds of kangaroos in addition to the common

one. The wallaby may also be regarded as belonging to the same tribe, though much smaller in size, otherwise it differs but very little. The same may be said of the tamar and the kangaroo rat. The dingo is a wild dog. The flying fox is found in some parts of the country.

FREMANTLE, AND OTHER TOWNS AND DISTRICTS.

The port of Perth is Fremantle, the Golden Gate of Australia, which is the chief port of Western Australia at present, since the mail steamers call there, and it is the first port of call in Australia for steamers coming from the Old World. The people of Fremantle are greatly indebted to the enterprising spirit of the Germans, whose mail steamers made it their port of call long before the British and French mail steamers. At present the P. & O. and Orient Lines call there regular, instead of at Albany, which brings Australia about one day's voyage nearer England than before.

Fremantle was founded in 1829 at the foundation of the Colony, and at present it has a population of over 20,000, and it possesses a handsome town hall, which was built at a cost of £13,000. The town is connected with Perth by both railway and river communication, and the distance between the two towns is about twelve miles.

About twelve miles from Fremantle there is a small interesting island called Rottnest, where the Governor has a summer residence. This island is a prison for Aboriginal offenders, who are employed in the manufacture of salt.

The country between Perth and Fremantle is composed of granite sand, covered with a coarse scrub and forests of banksia trees, red gums, eucaluptus, grass tree and "black boy," but the land is rapidly being cleared along the railway line to make room for the increasing suburbs, which will soon unite the metropolis and the port into one long town of over twelve miles.

The great drawback of Perth as a chief city is undoubtedly that the land in the vicinity is very sandy and sertile in appearance, with the exception of the banks of the rivers Swan and Canning, and here and there occasional swamps and rich patches of alluvial deposits. That the sandy soil is capable of producing fruit and vegetables in abundance, with the aid of moisture and fertilizers, is proved from the luxuriant gardens of the Chinese. These Celestials, expelled from he goldmining districts, where the miners look with contempt and detestation on all aliens, have converted a desert into a paradise by their industry and perseverance with gardening in the neighbourhood of Perth, where the people are more generous towards them.

When we travel inland, nine miles from Perth, and reach Guildford, a pretty little town situated in the centre of a thriving agricultural district at the junction of the Swan and Helena Rivers, the stratum of sand ceases, and red loam and fine alluvial flats succeed till we come to the foot of the Darling Range, a chain of hills broken here and there by small valleys or ravines, where there are farms and fine vineyards. After crossing these hills to the east the country breaks away into level flats, a fine wheat country, though the further we go to the east the rainfall is smaller, but sufficient for wheat growing for a considerable distance inland.

The river Avon meanders through this part of the country, on the banks of which are situated the towns of York, Northam, and Newcastle, thriving agricultural centres. These towns are connected with Perth by rail, distance about 60 miles. The Great Southern Railway between Albany and the Capital runs through York, which town was founded in the early days of the Colony owing to the fertility of the soil in the district. Indeed, the great strip of country of which York and Northam are prominent centres, stretching from the Stirling Range to Victoria Plains, was recently referred to by Sir John Forrest as "the granary of Western Australia."

Along the railway between York and Albany are situated Beverly, Pingelly, Narrogin, Kataning, Wagin, Broomhill, and other less important agricultural centres.

Albany has a fine harbour (King George's Sound) on the southern coast of Western Australia, about 250 miles from Perth. Until recently the mail steamers used to call there, but at present they call at Fremantle, causing a great loss to Albany. Owing to the geniality of its climate, the healthiest in the whole of Australia, it is a favourite summer resort, not only by the people of Western Australia, but by visitors from the other Colonies as well. It is well fortified with heavy guns, and is one of the chief points of defence on the Australian coast. The population is about 3,000.

Taking a general view of the country from Perth southward, it is not remarkable for its fertility in the district adjoining the city, but as we proceed further south the soil improves gradually, so that about sixty or seventy miles away we come to some of the finest land in Australia, especially on the banks of the streams, which are numerous in that part, where rich alluvial is found.

Bunbury is a seaport town in these parts, about 110 miles south from Perth. It has a population of about 3,000, and the town may be regarded as the metropolis of a rich agricultural and timber district, and mineral as well since the development of the Collie coalfields and the Donnybrook gold mines. The town is in communication with Perth by rail, and with Fremantle by sea. It has also a railway communication with Collie-fields, Busselton, Donnybrook, and Bridgetown. The town, with its romantic beach and hospitable people, like Albany, is a favourite summer resort, and is known as the Brighton of West Australia. The Church of England has two buildings in the town, and the Rector Rev. H. Darling, is a hard-working Clergyman; Mrs. Darling also deserves much praise. The Congregational Church, with its imposing and lofty tower, is an ornament to the town.

About 30 miles south from Bunbury is the small seaside town of Busselton, which is becoming an attractive place now as it is the nearest town to the Margaret River Caves. These Caves, which are newly discovered, are as interesting and remarkable as those of Tasmania,

and Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament who recently visited them, say that if they were known they would soon become "one of the most famous tourist places of the southern hemisphere, if not in the world."

About 25 miles south-east of Bunbury, the country is rich in gold, and what is known as the Donnybrook goldfields is at present being developed, and is very promising. Further south still is Bridgetown, a small town pleasantly situated in a fine agricultural country, and the Greenbushes tinfields are not far from this neighbourhood.

GERALTON.

About 250 miles north from Perth is situated the important seaport town of Geralton, which is the centre of a very rich agricultural, pastoral, and mineral country. It is connected with Perth by a railway known as the "Midland," the only line of any importance in Western Australia belonging to a private company. The names of some of the stations are very curious, such as Walkaway, Boot-and-all, Marchagee, &c. There is also a frequent steamboat communication between Geralton and Fremantle, and the Murchison goldfields help the town to be more prosperous than it had been in former days. There is a good deal of excellent land in the surrounding country, and fine green fields appearing like so many beautiful parks, pleasant to the eye of the traveller who passes through these districts by train, but the rainfall is comparatively small, and the country has suffered more or less from the evils of the land monopoly. About 35 miles from Geralton is Northampton, a most important lead and copper mining centre, and the railway to this district was the first line constructed in Western Australia.

THE GOLDFIELDS.—KALGOORLIE.

The most important West Australian goldfields are situated within that vast tract of country known as the "Eastern Division," which comprises the interior of the

State. Any one writing on Western Australia about ten years ago would undoubtedly have passed over this part of the territory without hardly any reference to it, but during the last few years, such has been the wonderful change brought about by the discovery of gold, that this vast region, previously almost unknown, is regarded by thousands of people as the most important region not only in Western Australia, but even in the whole of Australasia. Who would have thought fifteen years ago that this inland desert would have to-day such a large and flourishing city as Kalgoorlie? not to mention the other gold mining towns of smaller population and importance, such as Coolgardie, Kanowna, Menzies, &c.

Kalgooorlie is undoubtedly one of the wonders of modern times, and as the commercial and mining capital of the goldfields, this great trade emporium has attracted a large population from all parts of the world, with hundreds proceeding there continually. Only eight or nine years ago the site was a waterless desert, but now, with its twin city of Boulder, it has a population of 60,000, with broad and well laid out streets, and even some imposing buildings, with electric light and two daily papers. This large town is the centre of the goldfields railway service, being the terminus of the Coolgardie, Boulder, Kanowna, and Menzies lines, and the projected Trans-continental railway in the near future will add still more to its importance. The distance by rail from Perth is 375 miles.

The district known as the East Coolgardie goldfields, of which Kalgoorlie is the centre, is comparatively small in area, but is perhaps richer than any other equal area of country in the world, and although gold has been discovered and is more or less developed in other parts of Western Australia, the headquarters of the industry are undoubtedly at Kalgoorlie, for "the discovery of alluvial gold and the subsequent finding of the rich lodes has wrought a marvellous transformation, and the silent forest of but a short while ago has given place to two settled populous busy centres, provided with all the conveniences, luxuries, and necessities of modern cities,

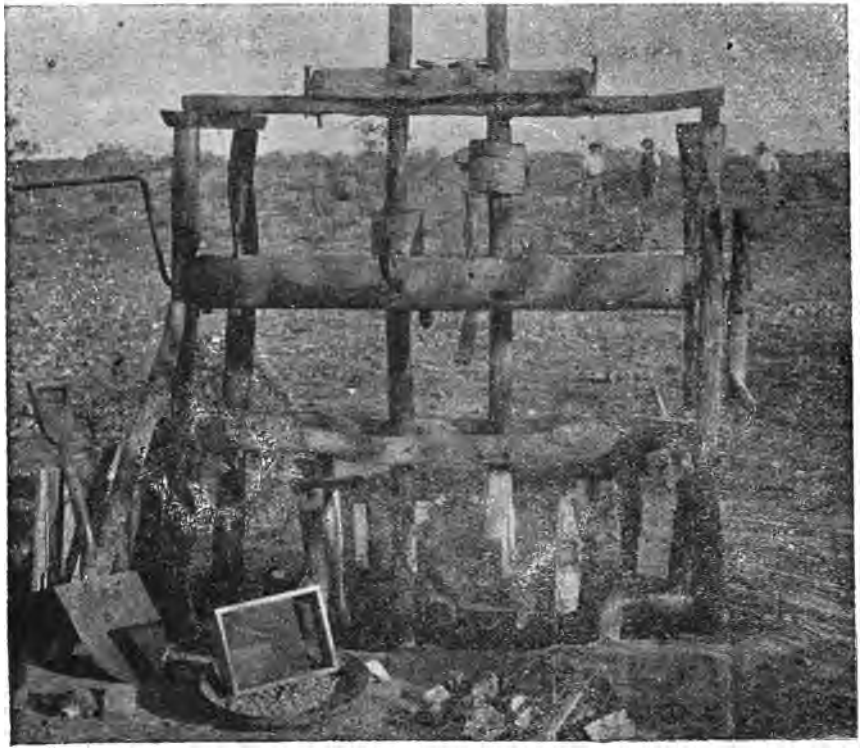
adjacent to which some of the richest and most extensive gold deposits in the world are now being mined. Enormous sums of money have been expended by governmental and private enterprise in the building of these new-born settlements, while millions sterling were freely and ungrudgingly expended by the much derided capitalists and mining companies in the purchase and erection on the mines of magnificent modern machinery, for their proper and rapid development, and for the purpose of treating at a minimum cost the oxidised and sulphide ores mined within the limits of this goldfield. Such an area of oriferous country possessing ore deposits of great width and continuity, and a consistent average throughout, no other part of the world can show. Experienced mining engineers speak with unfaltering confidence of the future of the Kalgoorlie mines, and have from time to time reiterated the assertion that their palmiest days are yet to come. In many of the leading properties on the fields the lodes have been proved by ordinary development work, and by diamond drilling, to hold to great depths, and in most instances to more than maintain a payable value as they go down. Generally the district can be said to have advanced in a hop, stemp and jump manner. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder belt, in which formation all the mines are located, extends several miles in length and is about one mile wide, and lies approximately north and south. The most valuable proved portion of this area consists of some five to six hundred acres, incorporated in which are the holdings known as the Lake View South, Lake View Consols, Golden Link, Boulder Main Reef, Hannam's Star, Great Boulder, Chaffer's Golden Horeshoe, Ivanhoe, Boulder Perseverance, Central and West Boulder, South Kalgurli, Kalgurli Oroya, North Boulder, Kalgoorlie Mint, Bank of England, Iron Duke, Hainault, Brookman's Boulder, Brownhill Extended and Brownhill Mines. All of these are located within the border of what is known as 'The Golden Mile.' Many of the gold-bearing ore chutes found in these mines may also extend into adjoining leases, but at that end of the field no payable gold in large quantities has been yet found in the ore

discovered in properties outside the above area. In addition to the payable ore chutes of the golden mile, there are also a number of parallel lodes which carry gold, although usually in small and unpayable quantities. These bodies are generally irregular in their occurrence, extending for a certain length, and then pinch out or merge into other lodes and become lost. Some of the Kalgoorlie main lodes are nearly vertical, others have a slight dip to the west, while others still dip to the east. Several of the lodes have been proved to depths varying from a thousand to twelve hundred feet, and at that point are even stronger and richer than they were at shallower depths."

COOLGARDIE.

About 24 miles west from Kalgoorlie, and 250 east from Perth, is situated the town of Coolgardie, once the largest and most important gold-mining town in Western Australia, but during the last few years the rapid progress and growing greatness of Kalgoorlie has precluded the town from becoming as large as it first gave indications of being. Although some people regard the town at present amongst the places that "have been," still it has a large population, larger than any other mining town in Western Australia with the exception of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and its future prospects are on the whole satisfactory.

Coolgardie claims the distinction of being the "mother city of the fields," but rather a young mother though, for about nine years ago its very site was uninhabited by white men, and the whole district was a wilderness, with only a few Aborigines roaming about, who found it very difficult to keep themselves from dying from thirst and hunger. It is true that important gold discoveries had been made at Kimberley and Southern Cross before Coolgardie was known, yet the gold-mining industry, practically speaking, starts from 1892, when Bayley and Ford found some rich nuggets near the Coolgardie township These two daring prospectors had pushed forward into the dry and lonely desert at



A PRIMITIVE BATTERY

least 120 miles from the frontier of civilization, and their discoveries electrified the world.

It was about the middle of September, 1892, that these two men arrived at Southern Cross from Coolgardie, or rather from the district where Coolgardie is at present, for there was no Coolgardie then. They had with them 554 ozs. of virgin gold, and some rich quartz specimens studded with coarse gold. Bayley's claim, which was first offered to a Perth syndicate, was bought by one Sylvester Browne, who, proceeding to the golden spot at once, set to work with two hammers and a mortar and "dollied" out the gold. Such was the good fortune that attended his energy and pluck that it is said he got in this way about 3,000 ozs. from one heap of quartz. Mr. Browne took some specimens with him to Melbourne, and a mad rush from the Eastern Colonies to this West Australian El Dorado followed, and it is something wonderful to think that in less than twelve months, about 3,000 people were at and about Coolgardie, and hundreds on the way, daring and reckless, pushing across the sandy plains. The pioneers of Coolgardie were bold and brave men, and it shows what privations people are willing to endure for the sake of the yellow metal. These men faced the terrors of a dry and waterless wilderness, without a road or path, carrying their swags on their backs, and many died on the journey from the want of water and food. Even after arriving at this golden realm, much difficulty was experienced in obtaining water, even for drinking, and the gold obtained was all got by specking, dry-blowing, or in nuggets out of the reefs.

Coolgardie at first was a township of tents scattered among the bushes, and after a while a whole street of canvas sprung into existence, which in its turn gave place to zinc or iron buildings, and at the present day there are many houses of brick and stone, and all the conveniences of modern civilization. Before the construction of a railway to the district, provisions were very expensive, and at one time flour was sold for about £6 per hundred pounds, with other things in proportion, so that it required very high wages to live there

then, but of course everything is different at the present day. In those early or pioneering days all the necessaries of life, as well as other things, had to be carried by teams for hundreds of miles through the desert, and travelling was very heavy and teams were bogged in all directions, and the scarcity of water increased the difficulties. Things improved to a certain extent by the use of camels, which were introduced from South Australia and from India, which animals seem to thrive well in the dry interior of Western Australia, not only because of the peculiar construction of their stomachs, which enables them to go a long distance without water, but also on account of the fact that they can live without proper grass. In fact, the bushes and other vegetation of the desert form their natural food. There are about 3,000 camels in West Australia at present, but they are not absolutely necessary now since the opening of so many railways.

Other mining centres on the eastern goldfields are Kanowna, about 12 miles north-east from Kalgoorlie, and Menzies, situated about 100 miles from Coolgardie, with which it is connected by a railway. Its principal mines are the Lady Shenton, Florence, and the Queensland Menzies.

Further north and north-east, there is a very large area of auriferous country known as the Mount Margaret goldfields, rich in big lodes and very promising. The chief mining townships are Mount Malcolm, Mount Morgans, Leonora, and Sons of Gwalia, Welsh Companies which employ hundreds of men even at present, and in all probability at some future day the Mount Margaret fields, and East Murchison further west, will become equal in importance to Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie as gold-producing centres. The great drawback has been the want of railways, but the opening of the line to Leonora, which is in course of construction, is likely to contribute greatly towards the development of the gold-ming industry in these inland and remote districts, of which a mining expert, Mr. G. W. Hall, a gentleman of high standing and reliable authority, predicts a great future. Mr. Hall is a native of South Wales.

THE MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS.

The Murchison Goldfields are situated to the north-east from Geralton, and the principal mining townships are Mount Magnet, Lennonville, Cue, Day Dawn, Nannie, and Peak Hill. Cue, with a population of 1,000, is the chief town of these districts, and is connected by rail with Geralton. The distance by train from Perth is about 600 miles. Gold was discovered in the Murchison district in 1891, and the country is better watered than the eastetn goldfields of Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, but the progress of the district has hitherto been very slow but steady. Many of the mines are held by local men, and owing to the want of capital and the great distance from Perth, depression has reigned more or less from time to time, but the district is at present progressing remarkably well, and there seems to be a great deal of mining zeal and activity shown among the people. The Great Fingall Mine at Day Dawn bids fair to become one of the most prosperous mines in Western Australia. It has a reef varying from 14 to 18 feet wide, opened up with seven levels to a depth of 600 feet, and possessing a shoot of gold 500 feet long, of an average assay value of 2 oz. The wonderful progress of the Great Fingall is causing much excitement, and reefs which were once abandoned are worked again.

Speaking generally of the West Australinn goldfields, it is a field for the operation of scientific mining, and where a man who is willing to work hard may earn good wages. It is not a field where one comes upon a sudden fortune, like California or Victoria in their golden days. A gold miner, as a rule, gets about 12/- a day, but the food is dearer than in England. It is also difficult to get work, especially if a man is not an experienced miner, and many have to walk hundreds of miles through the desert, with their swags on their backs, trying to find employment. At the same time, we must remember that some people wander about the country, impelled merely by a wild idle disposition, and a love of romance and adventure. There are others going about "prospecting," that is, in search of gold,

and besides those who work in the mines, there are others in some mining localities giving their attention to what is known as "alluvial gold," that is, gold found on or near the surface of the ground. This kind of prospecting is done by means of two dishes, a sieve, or dry-blowing machine. Those who are engaged in this kind of work at the present day are old men, and others who are in humble circumstances. There are also many earning a good living as teamsters, conveying goods from the railway stations, sometimes hundreds of miles through the lonely bush, into the remote outlying districts. A teamster, as a rule, has about eight horses in his waggon, with a load of five tons, and it takes him weeks to perform his journey, and he has to sleep alone every night in the open air or under his waggon. There are also Afghan teamsters, conveying goods on the backs of camels, and these animals are to be seen in some places in the bush almost as numerous as horses.

For the benefit of prospectors who have come upon gold-bearing reefs, the Government generously provide, in some districts, Public Batteries to which they can carry their gold-bearing quartz to be crushed at a reasonable price.

The gold output of the State amounts to the value of £7,000,000 annually, and the progress of the country since the discovery of the precious metal has been something marvellous, for what other country in the whole world, with a population of only 200,000, has nearly 2,000 miles of railway opened. There is also a widespread network of telegraph services, and in the near future a trans-continental railway will connect the country with the other Australian Colonies.

In bringing this little book on Western Australia to a close, I may add that the voyage from England to that far off Land of the South is a most delightful one, and full of real interest, for the passenger has an opportunity and the pleasure of seeing some of the most interesting places in the world, famous in history and song, during his long journey, such as Gibraltar, Marsailles, Genoa, Naples, Herculaneum, Pompeii, Egypt, Arabia, Ceylon. The beautiful Bay of Naples, with the Islands of Capri,

DRY-BLOWING.

Ischia, and Prosida emerging from its waters, whilst the city so pleasantly situated appears in the distance, and Mount Vesuvius towering to the sky with smoke and flames issuing from its summit, are sights which the traveller will never forge .

The Museum of Naples is undoubtedly the best in the world, as it is full of interesting relics, furniture, ornaments, sculptures, paintings, and other articles of the ancient Romans, gathered from the disentombed city of Pompeii, and also from the buried city of Herculaneum.

The ruins of Pompeii are only about 17 miles from Naples, and can be visited either by a carriage drive or by train, and as one treads along the streets of this city of the dead (Pompeii), and views the traces of the carriage wheels on the paved thoroughfares, the walls of the Temple of Jupiter, and the vast amphitheatre in which 20,000 spectators could witness the gladiatorial combats in the arena, the mind is carried back to those days when the Roman Empire was in its highest glory.

What is also of great interest to a Christian whilst visiting these parts, is that it was in the Bay of Naples St. Paul, the great Apostle of the Gentiles, landed when on his journey as a prisoner to Rome.

Indeed, after leaving Naples and proceeding forward on our voyage, we pass near some of the very places mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, and whilst steaming along through the Suez and the Red Sea, we are in the very heart of regions famed in Bible history. On one side is the land of Egypt, and on the other the desert where the Israelites, the people of God of old, wandered for forty years, whilst in the far distance we have a dim view of Mount Sinai appearing like a black cloud.

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